THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Jan. 27th—Feb. 2nd, 1983
Volume 18, Number 4

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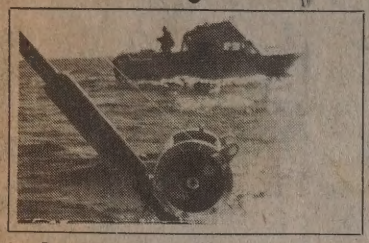

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FLOTILLA 11-4 SAFE BOATING COURSE

Once again Flotilla 11-4, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, presents its annual Safe Boating Course, to be held at Kinsborough Community College, Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, on Tuesday evenings from 8-10PM.

For 14 weeks, beginning on Feb. 2, a comprehensive boating course will be presented by qualified instructors. Subjects will include marine safety, rules of the road, aids to navigation, knots and splicing, marine engines, sailing, wtih special emphasis on chart reading, piloting and navigation.

The course is designed to introduce the novice boater—whether power or sail—to the world of boating and prepare him for a safe and pleasant boating season. It will also be valuable to the experienced boater and his family as a review and update of his boating information.

For registration and further information contact Saul L. Zimmerman, MD at 332-5447 or write: Grover Fining, 3 Holmes Lane, Brooklyn, New York 11236.

CITY ISLAND POWER SQUADRON FREE BOATING COURSE

Boatmen and boatwomen are invited by the City Island Power and Sail Squadron to attend a public boating instruction course to be conducted at City Island Community Center, 190 Fordham Street, Bronx, City Island, New York.

Starting February 14, 1983, classes will be held on Mondays at 7:30 PM. Some of the subjects are safety operation of boats and emergency procedures.

The public boating course is free, a small fee of $10 is charged for materials and testing.

For additional information, call days: Joe Burck, 212-885-1667; or evenings Bill Purcell, 212-863-5772.

FLOTILLA 11-6 OFFERS BOATING COURSE

Flotilla 11-6, USCG Auxiliary, Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, is conducting a Boating Skills & Seamanship Public Education Course on Fridays, beginning February 11, 1983.

The course will be given in the Lecture Hall, Room 1310 Boylan Hall, on the Brooklyn College Campus. Classes begin promptly at 8PM and will last about two hours per session.

All students who complete this course will receive an official identification card confirming course completion and a beautiful graduation certificate suitable for framing. Additionally, presentation of a copy of this certificate to your boat insurance agent may qualify you for a reduction in your present boat insurance premiums.

To reserve a seat, contact the following individuals:

Herb Glaser, between 10AM-4PM, at 697-7715.

Hal Grotefendt, nights after 7PM, at 769-9311.

The course is offered Free to anyone who pre-registers. There is a small materials fee to cover the cost of materials needed in a course as complete and information-filled as this one—including a beautifully prepared text book (revised to include the new rules of the road, lighting requirements and the new aids to navigation color system), weekly course hand-outs, a homework book and the final examination for those who wish to have them.

To have all your questions answered and to secure a seat in this excellently taught course, please contact Herb or Hal as soon as possible. This is the only Friday night course offered anywhere in this area.

BOATING COURSE FLOTILLA 11-5

A public education boating skills and safety course will be given by Flotilla 11-5 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxliary. The course consists of 11 lessons, each lesson lasting two hours. The course will start February 1, 1983 at the Diamond Point Yacht Club, 1350 Paerdegat Ave., in the Canarsie Section of Brooklyn, at 8PM. A nominal fee will be charged for materials which will be supplied to students wishing same. The course is free and those students wishing to partake in the lecture sessions only, need not pay the fee. At the conclusion of the class, all graduating students will be given a beautiful certificate, supplied by the U.S. Coast Guard.

For more information, contact Flotilla Commander Harry Frankel, any business day, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM, 212-868-8853, or write to him at the Yacht Club.

BOATING COURSE IN OCEANSIDE

Captain Percy Paget will teach the navigation and piloting portion of a free 12-lesson boating course starting February 1, 1983 at 8PM.

Other subjects to be covered include rules of the road, aids to navigation, marlinspike, weather, engines, boat handling, and communications. Flotilla 13-05 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is sponsoring the course which will be held on 12 consecutive Tuesdays at the Oceanside Community Center, Oceanside Road, in Oceanside. Certificates will be awarded upon successful completion of the course.

A charge of $20 will be made for course materials. Registration can be made at the first session.

For further information, call Bob Baseley, (516) 536-3557.

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—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 18, Number 4 January 27th, 1983

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Light tackle action on a tropical flat beckons Long Islanders numbed by the recent deep freeze. If your looking for a place to escape the cold, see Al Ristori's article on page 24.

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The LONG ISLAND FISHERMAN is published weekly, except for two weeks in December by the L.I.F. Publishing Corporation, L.I.F. Building, Bridge Street, P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963. Telephone: 516-725-4200. Second Class Postage paid at Sag Harbor, New York. $.75 per copy, back issues $.90. Subscriptions: 50 Issues, $16.; 100 Issues, $30. Photographs and written contributions are welcomed. Unsolicited contributions become the property of The Long Island Fisherman. All contributions to be returned must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. All consideration will be given to these requests, however, no responsibility on our part is assumed. Notice of change of address must include both new and old addresses and sent to the Main Office. Allow two to four weeks for change. USPS 588-160.

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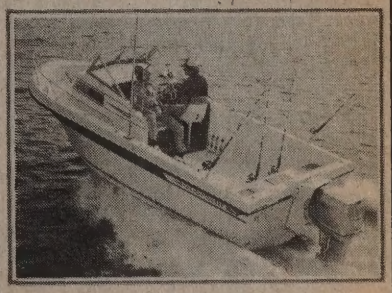

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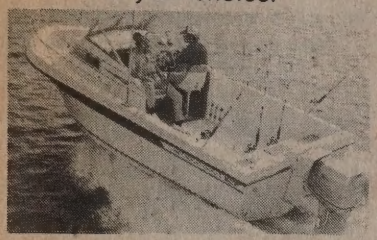

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EDITORIAL

THE FISHERMAN COMMENTS AT PUBLIC HEARING (1/15/83) SPONSORED BY SENATOR JOHNSON

INTRODUCTION: Obviously, The Long Island Fisherman is a recreational publication. As such, our primary responsibility is to provide our readers with the best recreational fishing information that is available. However, any good publication has other responsibilities as well: intrinsic albeit not always obvious. Those responsibilities are in the realm of ethics and community service. Therefore, from the very first day of its inception as a media product The Long Island Fisherman has set additional priorities to complement its primary function. These priorities are: the management and protection of marine species, the management and protection of marine habitats, and the promotion and protection of recreational fishing. It is important to state that the priorities for these goals is the order in which they were presented. The basic reason for the order of priorities is rather simple. If we protect and nurture marine species and their habitats, then certainly all types of fishing will prosper.

Striped Bass: 10516-A. These brief introductory remarks are vital to my discourse because they bear heavily on the very nature of the striped bass problem along the East Coast. In preparing my comments for today's hearing, I was drawn to a Channel 13 Nova program I saw this past Monday evening. The show was entitled "Salmon on the Run." It was the story of chinook salmon on the Clamath and Trinity Rivers in northern California. Of course, 100 years ago the salmon were very plentiful in that and many other river systems. Most people believed that the abundance of salmon would never end. I wonder if this expressed belief sounds familiar to many of us in this room this morning. In time, the loggers and gold miners silted out large portions of the rivers, industrial pollution damaged the water quality, and over-harvesting by commercial fishermen brought about a marked decline in the stocks. There are today three major user groups in this river system. These are the local Indian tribe, the ocean commercial trollers, and recreational fishermen. The State of California, the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and local recreational fishing groups have taken steps over the decades of this century to solve the problem. This is more than we can say for our own efforts to successfully manage striped bass in New York State and the entire East Coast, since we have done virtually nothing. In any event, getting back to the point, laws and regulations were instituted that prohibited gill netting on the river and also limited the size of the harvest. However, the local Indian tribe won a court battle that allows them now to use gill nets in that portion of the river which is within the boundaries of their reservation. In addition, a technique was developed for commercial trolling in the ocean near the mouth of the river that is very efficient because the fish must congregate in dense schools near the mouth of the river before ascending the river to spawn. The result has been that, of the estimated 125 thousand or so salmon that return to the river to spawn, perhaps 110,000 to 115,000 are harvested down-river. This represents about 90% or more of the total returning population. Fisheries biologists tell us that if wild salmon stocks are to succeed that no more than 60 to 70 percent of the stock should be harvested.

Why hasn't fishery management of the chinook salmon succeeded in spite of some significant regulations in an attempt to save the wild stocks? Well, the Indians blame the U.S. Government and the ocean trollers; the ocean trollers blame the Indians, state government, and aquaculture efforts, and the recreational fishermen blame the Indians and the ocean trollers. Why then have Californians not solved the salmon problem in eight to ten decades of debate and disagreement? The answer, I believe, is very simple. In all the years of trying, the motivations were always wrong. The ocean trollers were worried about taking as many salmon as they could catch without regard to the state of the stocks. The Indians were concerned only about their native rights to take fish regardless of the effect of such practice on the fish, and the recreational fishermen want to catch more salmon. In addition, government has been guilty, too. In all the years of trying, government's main concern has been to make the user groups happy and not change traditional uses and rights.

Ladies and gentlemen, I propose to you that the reason why the salmon problem has not been solved in 100 years is because no one—not government, not fishermen, not Indians—no one has placed the well being of the salmon above all other considerations. They have failed to realize and accept a fundamental reality. If we manage and conserve the salmon stocks properly there will be enough salmon to please all user groups. If government would stop worrying about user groups for a few years and establish regulations for the

benefit of the salmon stocks, then what would follow would be decades of abundance—and without controversy.

There are tremendous and real parallels between the salmon problem in California and the striped bass problem along the East Coast. Certainly, they are different species, this is a different part of the country, and so on and so on. We do not need lessons in how these two problems differ. Instead, we need to focus on the primary similarity. In both cases we have failed the fish, and in so doing, should we continue our present course, we must also ultimately fail the fishermen.

I will not recite to you a long list of data that is well known to me about striped bass because there are others here today who will do that. Instead it is my hope to focus your attention on re-ordering our priorities. Let's put the well being of the fish and its habitat above all else. Then surely we, too, will benefit. The bill we are discussing today is not perfect. Clearly it is weak and could benefit from significant amendments. However, I do not believe we should argue these shortcomings. We have argued such matters for decades and still we have no management plan for striped bass. We could easily spend the rest of this century arguing and by then, the argument will lack meaning because there may not be enough striped bass to maintain a viable fishery.

I would like to ask all the interests and interested parties present today to join together in order to pass this legislation. I would ask commercial fishermen to accept proudly the possibility of a reduced harvest of four to eight percent. I would ask the recreational interest to put aside their years of frustrated effort and the possibility of smaller harvests of school fish because of a larger minimum size limit. I would ask our state legislature to pass the legislation regardless of the outcries of a small handful of people simply because the legislation is long overdue and desperately necessary. I finally would call on all interests to accept a philosophy that will allow this meager legislation to be amended slowly over the next five years until such time that it adequately manages the resource. A slow process of amendment should be more or less painless to absorb while satisfying our obligation to the species.

Other Legislation: It is my hope that my own remarks will be consistent with the philosophy expressed in my opening paragraph. Towards this end, perhaps my lengthy statements regarding striped bass management will be understood. This is not to say that we lack opinions about some of the other bills up for discussion today. However, in the interest of conserving time so that others might speak, I would like to briefly comment on a cluster of the bills before concluding my presentation with a more elaborate set of comments regarding Bill 6176-B.

Senate Bill 9591 pertaining to the harvest of blue claw crabs. We have no strong sentiments about this legislation. However, we offer the suggestion that perhaps a better definition of "commercial purposes" might employ criteria of "sale" rather than numbers of crabs harvested.

Senate Bill 9588 pertaining to adding size limits for species like weakfish and cod to the conservation law. We applaud the effort as a positive attempt at management, and the size limits seem reasonable.

Senate Bill 8937-A pertaining to surf clams. We have no particular opinion except that this proposed legislation is a state level attempt to manage surf clams consistent with the tenets expressed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Senate Bill 8637/Assembly Bill 10914 pertaining to the use of seine nets for bait in Fire Island Inlet. The bill would increase the size of the net that can be used from 120 by 6 feet to 175 by 40 feet. The proposed size of net increase we believe could have serious repercussions on bait and game fish distribution in the area between the Robert Moses Bridge and the mouth of the inlet. The larger net could easily be used to take game fish and a larger net would permit more efficient harvests of bait fish. Increased harvests of bait fish in this area could mitigate new migration patterns for game fish in this area. Although this portion of the inlet is productive for weakfish, striped bass, blues, etc., it is particularly important as a feeding ground for summer flounder or fluke (**Paralichthys dentatus**). It is clear that larger baitfish harvests could disrupt intense recreational effort and its resultant economic benefit to the Town of Babylon. In addition, we are compelled to point out our objection to that portion of the original legislation that allows the netting of bait in this area. We feel that this zone, adjacent on one side to a state park, is not a suitable netting area. Boat traffic in this area of the inlet is heavy, the recreational fishing effort is intense, and the zone is an important staging area for baitfish and game fish prior to inward and outward migrations. We oppose this legislation and further recommend that all netting be prohibited in estuary inlets.

Senate Bill 3014 pertaining to the establishment of a commercial license. We oppose this legislation at this time. We feel that the responsibility, both moral and financial, for the management of our marine resources should be shared by all the people of the state. Experience has shown that when one user group is taxed or licensed to use a resource to the exclusion of other groups, that the licensed group gains an inordinate amount of influence on the decisions that affect the resource to the exclusion of the needs and opinions of the rest of the citizenry.

Parks Bill: Senate Bill 6176-B/Assembly Bill 11801. Finally, we come to this significant and important piece of legislation. The legislation would

(Continued on page 32.)

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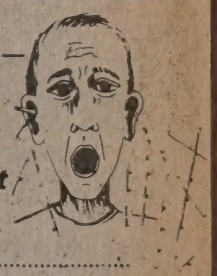

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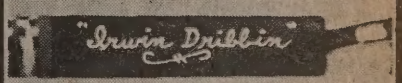

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CUSTOM ROD BUILDING:

by Dave Arbeitman & Grant Toman

APPLYING THE FINISH

Applying a clear, durable and long-lasting finish is the last step in completing your new custom rod. The advent of tough, but flexible epoxy finishes a few years ago, put the rod builder light years ahead of the old-fashioned method of layering coat after coat of varnish.

Not only is the epoxy virtually clear and colorless, it usually doesn't fade or yellow after long use like the varnish did. There are, however, some old school rod builders who still favor the varnish finish. In-between is the plastic urethane type of finish that also must be built up with repeated coats to give a glossy look.

We recommend the two-part epoxy finishes. There are several brands on the market and all are good. Often what makes a good finish is simply what you are used to. The Gudebrod Hard N Fast, EnviroTex sold in hobby stores and the Flex Coat epoxy are among the most popular, although not the only epoxies available. Check with your local rod building or tackle shop for the finish most readily available in your area.

If you have used the NCP type of thread you may have heard that a coating of color preserver is unnecessary. However, in our opinion the NCP threads should still get one coat of the preserver to prevent yellowing of the finish later as the sun's rays affect the epoxy.

When you mix the epoxy, be sure to mix it thoroughly and exactly as the directions say. Use plastic medicine measuring cups sold in drug stores and mix the epoxy with a disposable stick.

The finish should be applied with a nylon bristled brush, spreading the finish back and forth along the wraps. Use the end of the brush to "push" the epoxy into and around the guide feet to completely seal them in the finish. Keep the rod turning at all times so the epoxy does not drip off the blank.

Many rod building shops sell small motors that are ideal for rotating the blank as the finish sets up. If you plan to build several rods or rebuild some old rods, this motor is a good investment and makes all the difference in the world to make the rod look professionally done.

After the first coat has set and/or dried, apply a second lighter coat. The second coat helps to smooth over any thin spots or irregularities.

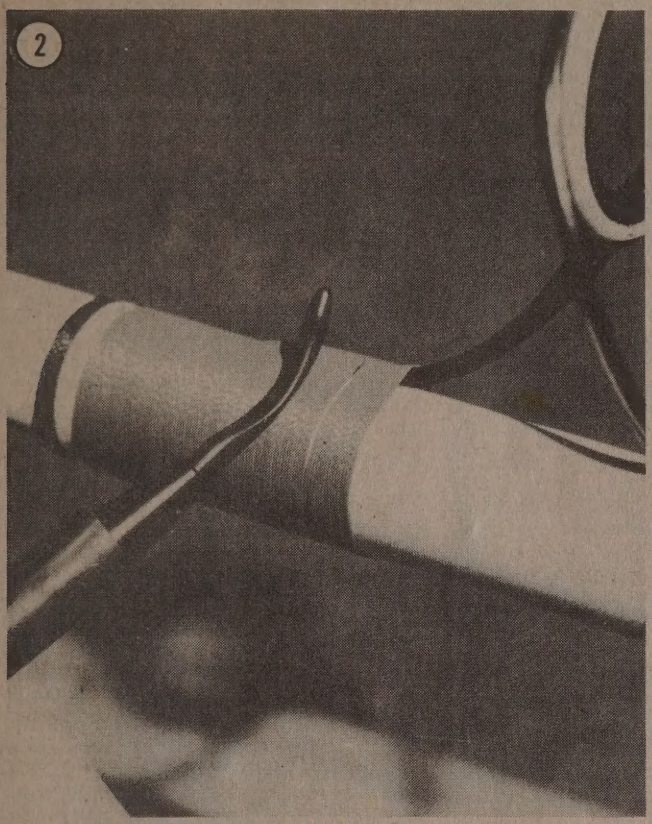
That's all there is to it. Good luck and enjoy rod building this winter.

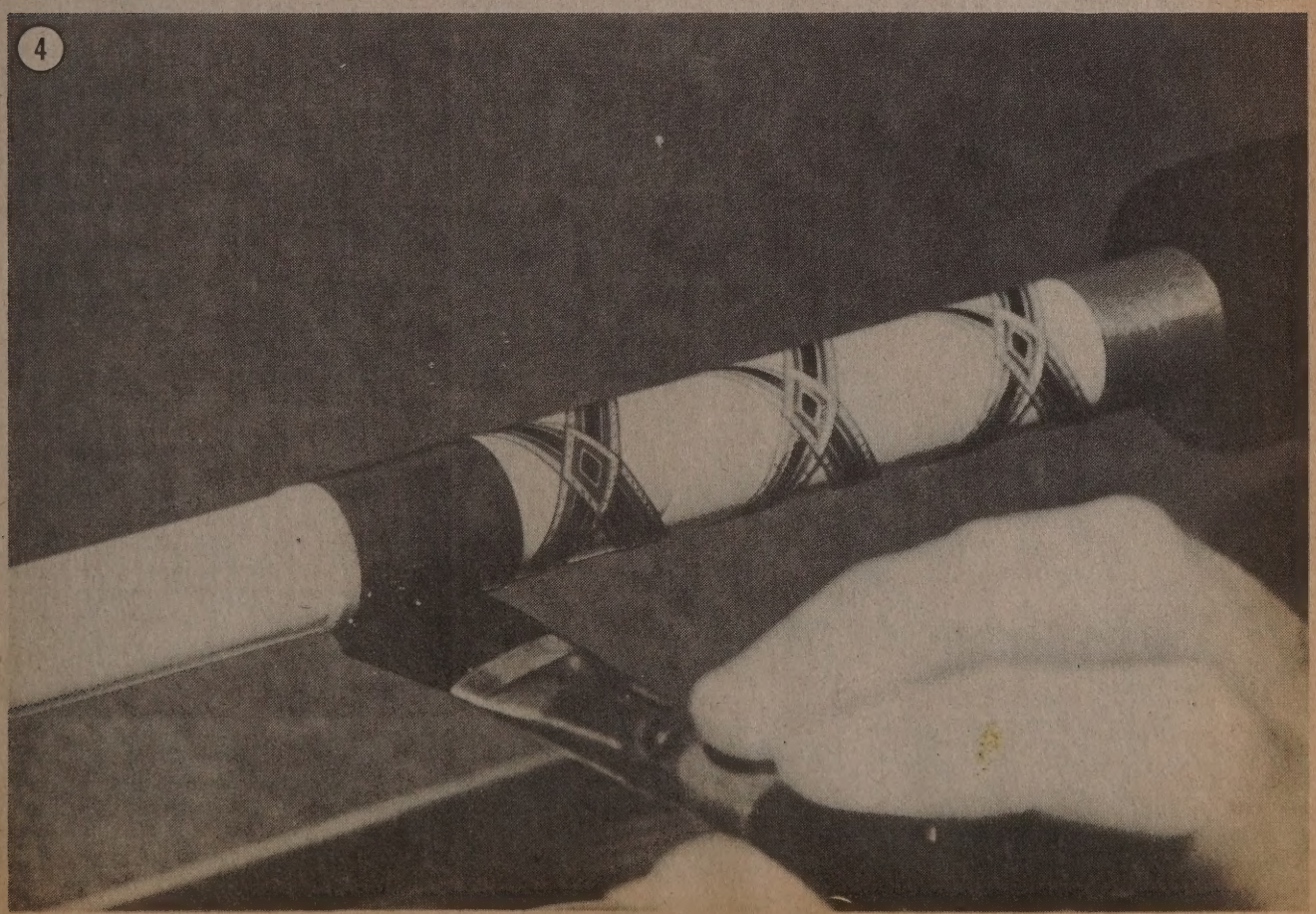
Photo One: Choose a high quality epoxy finish and color preserver to assure a long lasting finish. Mix **exactly** as the directions say.

Photo Two: Check the wraps to be sure there are no gaps or irregularities. Use the burnishing tool to smooth over the gaps.

Photo Three: Apply the epoxy in a side to side motion, thoroughly spreading the finish to all parts of the wrap. Use the brush to "push" the finish into crevices of diamond wraps and guide feet.

Photo Four: Lay brush close to end of wraps and slowly spin blank to create a smooth, even edge—the mark of a professional rod builder.





TACKLE DOCTOR:

FLY RODS: ACTION A KEY FACTOR

Q. For many happy years I've been a fly rod trout fisherman, but would now like to try a fly rod in saltwater. I have read many books that have only left me confused as to what makes a good fly rod. Many books stress the rods needed for fishing the flats in Florida for bonefish and tarpon, yet when I purchased a rod to handle a 10 weight line, the line was hard to cast and after hooking only one bluefish, I am convinced the rod is nearly useless.

I do vacation in the summer at both New Jersey's Great Bay and Long Island's Great South Bay where I may be able to use this lightweight saltwater rod for weakfish where the water is reasonably shallow, but I'm looking for a rod to handle a sinking line, flies with 5/0 hooks and bluefish of five to ten pounds offshore.

Any thoughts to help me out of a dilemma? *Bruce Hoagland.*

A. Your initial discovery that saltwater flyrodding is quite different than freshwater has been shared by many long-wand fishermen over the last several years. While trout streams usually feel only minor effects of wind, every saltwater bay, even if the water is very calm, still boasts a breeze that can make fly rodding difficult. Most accomplished saltwater fly rodders prefer a rod with a more beefy action as compared to freshwater rods, which usually have a slow action. Because you are contending with wind, much heavier flies (streamers), deeper water and hopefully larger fish, the saltwater fly rod must have much more power than the freshwater trout rod. The power should be built into the rod in the butt section. Many saltwater fly rods reel "tippy" to an angler making the transition to salt but that added power in the lower half of the blank gives the punch to push the fly line and streamer a longer distance despite the effects of wind, and also supplies the power to lift a bluefish or weakfish from deeper water. Keep in mind that it's a rare trout stream that is more than five to ten feet deep, while many of the best bluefish spots are 50 to 100 feet deep.

As a reference, use the Fenwick GFF-9012 which takes a #12 line. The rod works well with a #12 weight floater, rocket taper line or with a #11 fast sinking line when fishing deep. Although designed for slug fests with flats tarpon, the rod has plenty of guts to haul in a blue. Rods with a weepy butt should be avoided unless you are fishing tidal rivers where the wind is no problem and the fish are small.

The best book on fly rodding in the salt was put together by Lefty Kreh, titled, "Fly Fishing in Salt Water." It covers deep water saltwater fly rodding and can offer you many tips on this exciting sport.

Q. My trusty and faithful nine foot dry fly rod has taken many hundreds of trout and shad but I met some trouters last year on the Delaware who swore by the action, better line control and added sport of shorter rods. One fellow used a six foot very light rod while his buddy used a seven footer. I can't deny they knew what they were doing; they outfished me that day taking more shad than I did!

Over the years I have heard of the benefits of using the shorter rods and

Rod action is especially important when large saltwater game fish are the target.

remember that Lee Wulff was a fan of the very short six foot rods for salmon fishing. If he can catch Atlantic salmon on the small rods and if those two men I met last spring do so well with it, do you think I'm missing out by not switching to a smaller rod?

What short rod would you recommend? What line weight?

A. There has been a trend over the last 15 years to move away from the long nine foot trout rods that served, like your trusted rod, for so long. There are many reasons for this, some of them are not directly related to fish catching ability. Bamboo is still admired by purists, yet most trout fans these days have switched to glass or graphite rods. The appeal of smaller rods began when nearly everyone used bamboo, the idea being to create a rod that weighed a lot less than a cumbersome nine footer.

The lighter and shorter rods did offer more sport much like ultralight spin fishing might be compared to standard spinning tackle. Fishermen have always been moving towards more sporting gear.

However, in the practical and real world of everyday fishing, the drawbacks of using shorter rods also became apparent. The shorter rods required more critical casting timing. Anglers who could daintily lay out a #18 black gnat with a nine foot rod, found themselves struggling to make decent casts with a six foot rod if they weren't top-notch casters. The longer rods have always been more forgiving of casting errors.

While the shorter rods are lighter and theorectically offer more sport, they are again less forgiving while playing a fish. Many fishermen found themselves with broken flies and lost fish as a good sized trout or shad would make a quick lunge of escape. The longer rods provided more cushion and protection of the leader tippet and fly.

The trend that saw many trout fishermen switching over from nine footers to six footers has now compromised at the range of seven to eight feet. Anglers who could not handle a six foot rod found great delight in casting with a 7½ foot rod capable of handling a 5, 6 or 7 weight line. Others, of course, looked to slightly longer or shorter rods to suit their particular fishing and casting style.

We would opt for the 7½ or 8 foot rod as the best all-around fly rods for most small to medium size streams where the fish are in the 12 to 20 inch size range. Bigger water and bigger fish are probably best handled by 8 or 8½ rods with line weights of 7, 8 or 9 weight.

Remember that choosing the best fly rod is much like choosing a wife. The same qualitites that please one of us may not be the best choice for the next man. We wouldn't advise you to quit your nine footer entirely, but we do feel that a switch to a 7½ rod would be a pleasant change for you.

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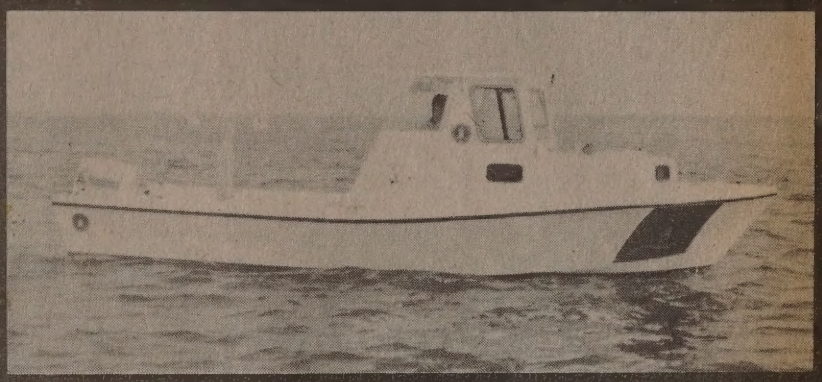

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MASTER THOSE LOOP KNOTS

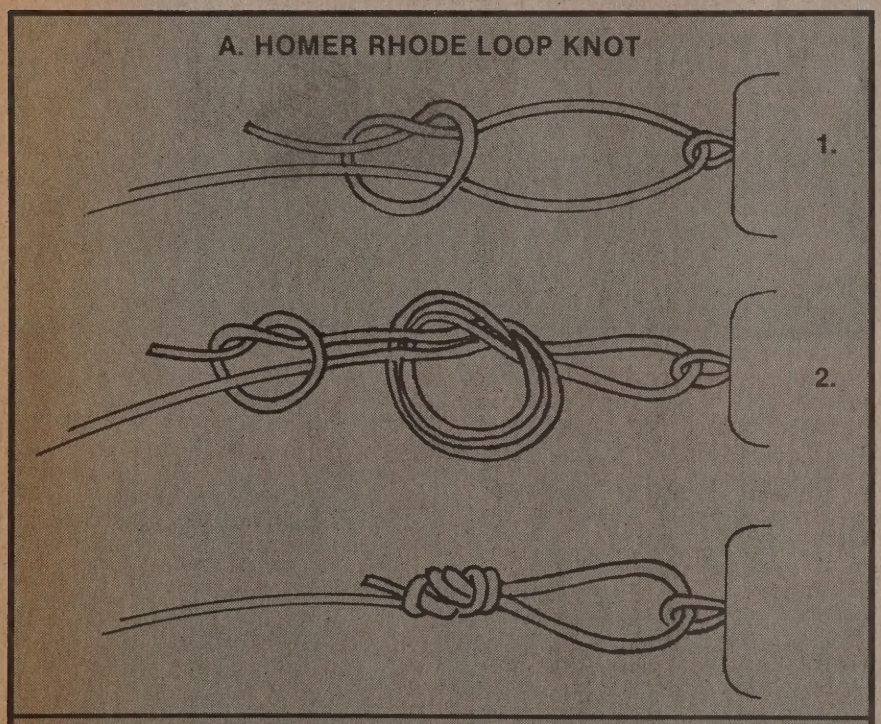
by Gerald Hahn

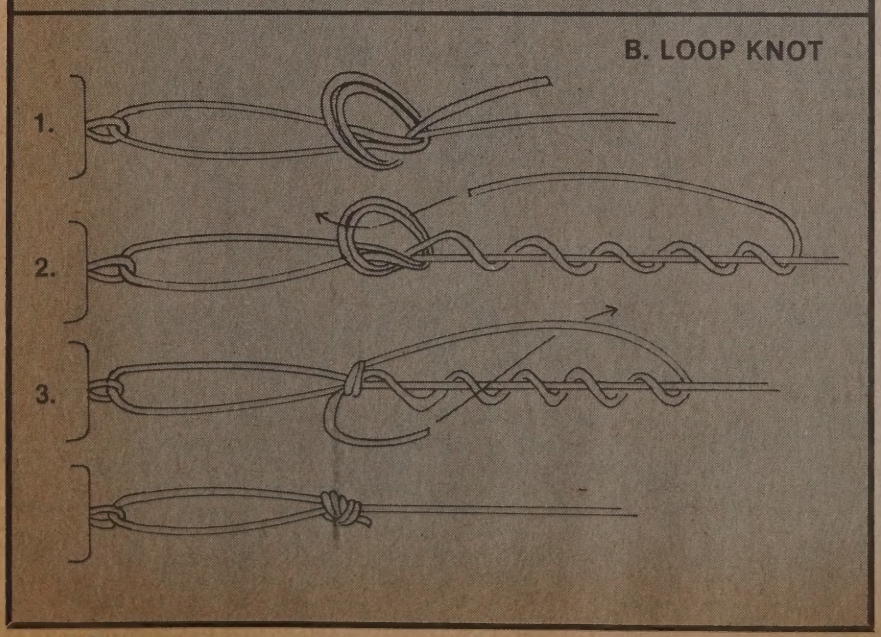
Most fishermen rely on tightly snugged knots for tying a lure directly to the running line or the plastic leader. Such well-known terminal knots as the Improved and Regular Clinch Knot, the Palomar Knot and the Uni-Knot, have been used for many years with great success. However, they are not the only knots one can use for artificials. In fact, many fishermen claim that loop knots are better.

One advantage of a loop knot is that it doubles the line, thereby increasing its strength. A loop knot, moreover, enhances the lure's movement, especially when the line is inserted through the eye of the lure before fashioning the loop. Although some loop knots are considerably weaker than their tightly snugged relatives, others are so strong, they are used almost exclusively by anglers going for the largest game fish.

Actually, almost every fisherman, no matter whether he favors loops or not, makes use of at least two loop knots: the End Loop and the Dropper Loop. An End Loop is for connecting a sinker to the end of the line, and a Dropper Loop is for attaching a teaser or a snelled hook. In fact, every snelled hook requires an End Loop, an Improved End Loop, or a Perfection Loop at the end of the plastic leader. Wire line fishermen also use loop knots, including the Haywire Twist for single strand wire and the Crimped Sleeve Loop for braided wire.

There are many different kinds of loop knots for monofilament and plastic leaders, and many are used by fly fishermen. This article will cover four loops for saltwater fishing: the Homer Rhode Loop Knot, Loop Knot, Spider Hitch and Bimini Twist.





A. Homer Rhode Loop Knot:

This knot resembles an End Loop and is almost as simple to tie. However, since the knot is only half as strong as an unknotted line, it is recommended only for heavy lines (30 lb. test and over). Wire line anglers (with multi-strand wire) also use this knot. The Homer Rhode Loop comes in handy when a free-swinging lure is desired.

1. Insert tag end of line through eye of lure; then tie an overhand knot with tag end around standing part of the line.
2. Tie another overhand knot around both strands of the line. Draw knots together and tighten.

B. Loop Knot:

Another popular accompaniment to a free-swinging lure, this knot is stronger than the Homer Rhode Loop and is easier to tie than a Nail Loop. (To tie a Nail Loop, see my article, Basic Knots: Part II, Issue #5, 2/5/81.)

1. Insert tag end of line through lure and form a 6 inch loop; then tie an overhand knot with both strands of loop. Do not tighten.
2. Twist tag end around standing part of line five times; then insert tag end through overhand knot. (For 40 lb. test and heavier lines, twist only three times.)
3. Tighten overhand knot and insert

tag end through the larger loop formed. Tighten the knot.

C. Spider Hitch:

This knot is much stronger than the previous two and is excellent for light lines. There is some disagreement about its actual strength, however. The DuPont Corporation (maker of Stren lines) claims that the Spider Hitch retains the full strength of an unknotted line. Then again, such well-known sportsmen and angling writers as Frank Woolner and Lefty Kreh, say it is not as strong as the Bimini Twist. The Hitch, however, is certainly easier to tie than the Twist, and is one of the strongest loop knots around.

1. Form an 18 inch loop with the end of the line; then form a smaller loop with the doubled line. Hold the small loop in place between thumb and index finger.
2. Wrap large loop around thumb five times; then insert end of large loop through small loop.
3. Slowly pull end of large loop, allowing wraps around thumb to pass smoothly through small loop. Tighten carefully.

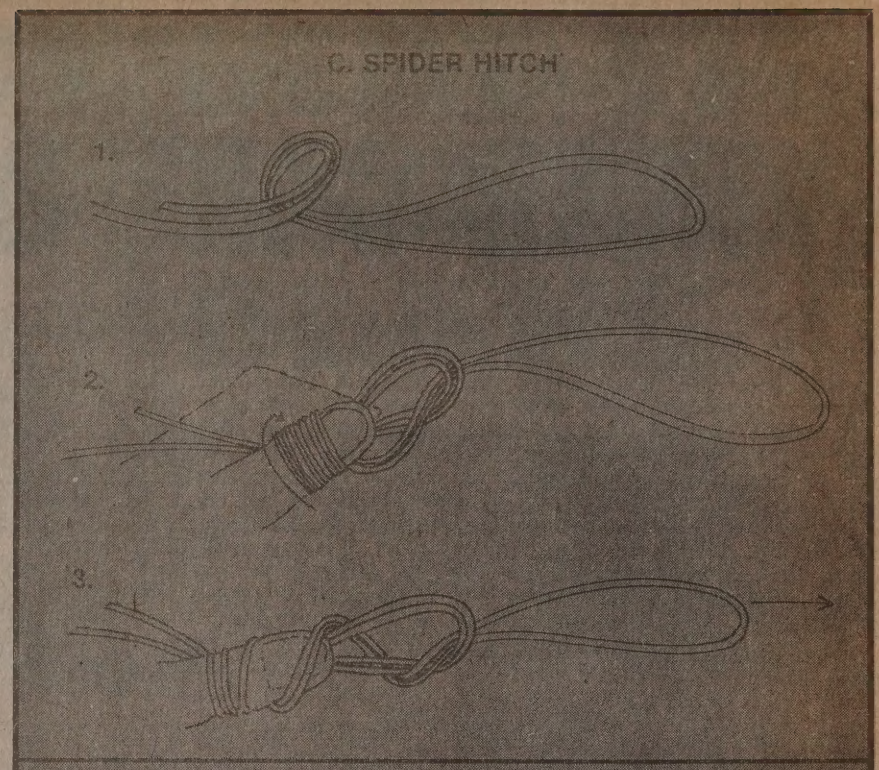
D. Bimini Twist:

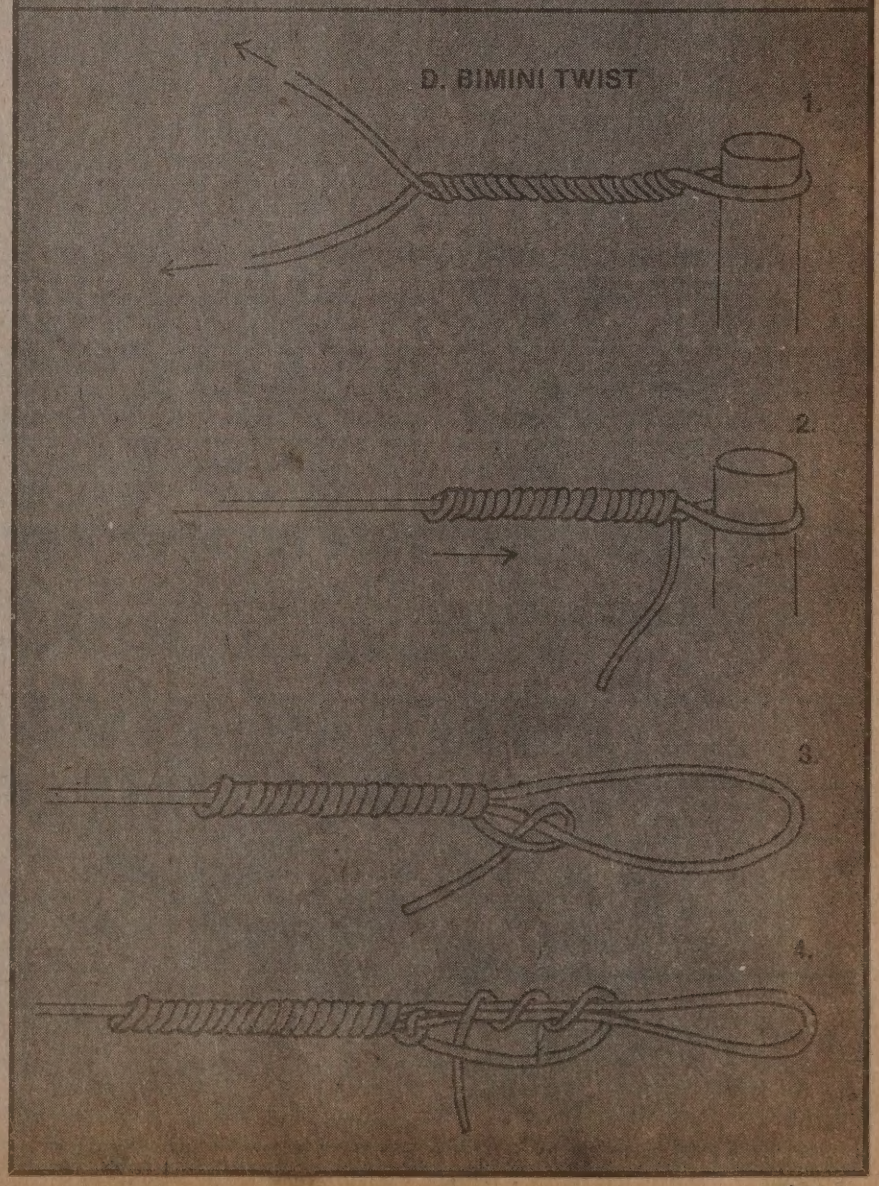
This is the supreme knot for large game fish. It can also be used for surf, skiff and party boat fishing. The difficulty in tying the Bimini Twist is that you need to put in service a fishing buddy, a post, or your legs.

1. Form a large loop (2 to 3 feet) with the end of the line and twist it 20 times. Now, put the end of the loop around a post (or have your friend hold it; or sit down, put your legs through the loop, and bring it up to the backside of your thighs).
2. Pull apart tag end and standing part of the line to tighten twists; then carefully work your way back, by wrapping tag end around twists. Make sure wraps are neatly aligned and not crossed, as you work them toward loop.
3. Tie a half-hitch with the tag end around one strand of the loop.
4. Pass tag end around both strands of the loop three times, and insert tag end through the loop thus formed (as when tying a Clinch Knot).

Although the Bimini Twist and the Spider Hitch can be used with a free-swinging lure (insert tag end of line through lure before tying the loop), most of the time the knots are tied first and the lure added later, that is, by inserting the loop through the eye of the lure in the same way you put the looped end of a snelled leader through a barrel swivel or a Dropper Loop. Make sure the loop is larger than the lure.

Practice tying any or all of these loop knots, and then try them out the next time you go fishing. I once observed a sharp party boat angler diamond jigging for blues and catching most of the fish. His trick was to use only 25 lb. test (everyone else was using 40 lb. test) and a Spider Hitch to double the line. This season, loop your lure for lucrative fishing.





★ HOW-TO SPECIAL ★

WADER CARE & RACK

by John Schauer

Congratulations—you have just bought a pair of the finest waders on the market. Usually this statement is printed somewhere on the box that the waders came in. The question is, how do we keep them in fine condition? Naturally, before you bought the waders you should have tried them on. Make sure they do not bind at the knees or crotch when you crouch down. Also make sure there is enough room in the waders to lift your legs for mobility. If you want to climb a jetty or get over a high water ridge on a beach, you had better have enough room or you will have to crawl up on all fours. It also may be smart to buy the waders a size larger; that way you can wear heavy socks and insulated underwear. This is a must, especially if the waders are uninsulated and you fish in the late fall.

Waders should be washed off after each use, but the ardent "surf-nut" rarely does. When coming off the beach, after an all-night it is not conducive to washing off the waders. But, there is a partial solution. Take a plastic milk jug of water with you, and before you remove your waders, pour the water over them. This will get most of the sand, salt and fish scales (if you're lucky) off your waders.

In the event that you get "dunked" and fill up your waders, the best thing you can do is to hang the boots up, and turn them inside out as far as possible. Hang them in a dry place with good circulation. If your waders have innersoles, take them out and let them dry separately. Some of the newer waders on the market such as the Gralites and the new Red Ball waders should not be dried with a hair drier. The heat may be too concentrated and ruin the material. After the waders are dry make sure you hang them up straight. If you insist on folding them, **do not** fold the boot portion because the boot will become distorted if left that way for a long time.

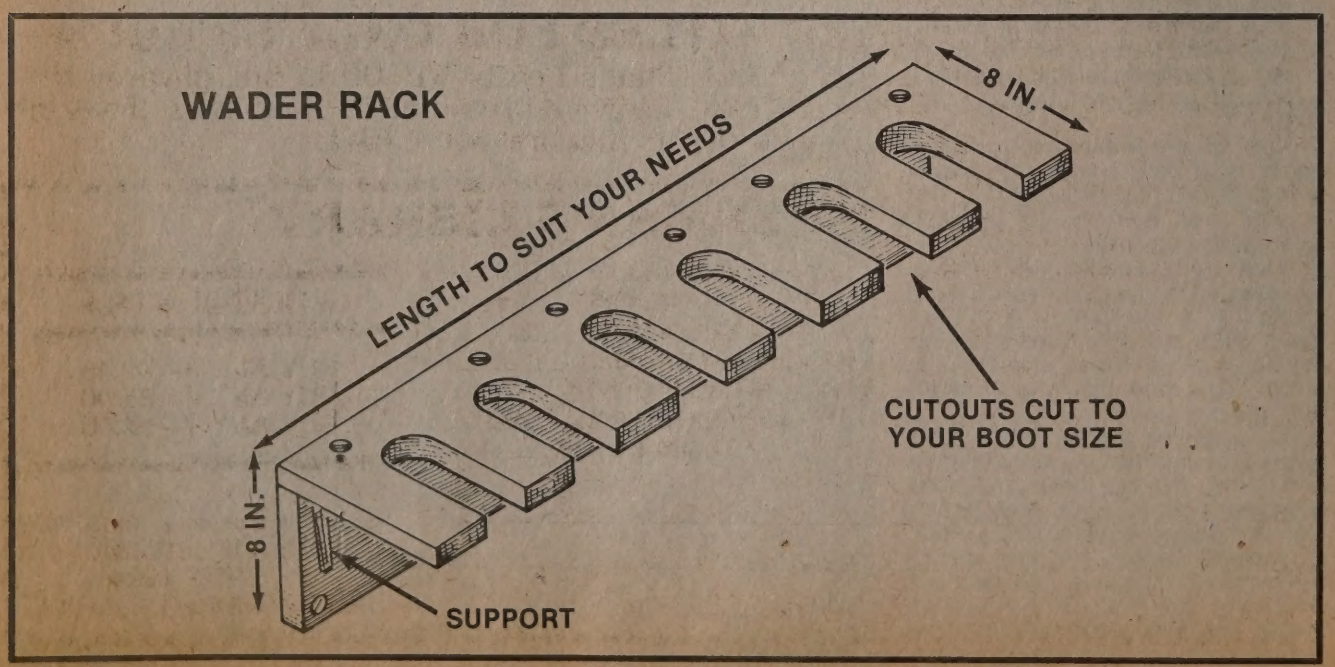
What if you get a leak in the waders? This little unpleasantry will eventually happen. The first trick is to find the leak. There are a few ways of finding the hole. Spread a soap solution over the area in question and grasp the waist and fill the waders wth air. Bubbles should form at the hole. You can also put a light in the waders near the hole and see where the light shines through. This should be done at night or in a dark closet. Another way to do it is to stick your head in the waders and bunch up the waist. Leave enough room to breathe. You should be able to see daylight come through the holes. With the older waders I used to patch the holes with a truck tube patch. This worked very well and if you were in a real rush, silicone sealant worked temporarily. With the newer style of plastic waders, you can repair holes with a kit that usually comes with the waders—at least Gralites come with a kit. Red Ball and Converse kits have to be bought separately.

When the season is over, it pays to wash the waders off with soap and water. Make sure they are dry inside and out and hang them in a cool, dry place. Don't store them in an area that gets too cold; you could find them cracked the next time you think to look at them. Also keep them out of direct sunlight.

As far as a hanger is concerned, you can purchase a boot hanger at most sporting goods stores. They are cheap and do a good job. If you have a couple of pairs of waders, or a pair of hip boots, you can make your own hanger. It will take up more room, but the boots will hang straighter, and have better support. You can make the hanger out of scrap materials. All it takes is some 3/4 inch plywood or shelving board and a few screws.

If you make your own hanger, you will have to measure your boots to make the cut-outs the correct size. Also, the wood should be sanded extra smooth so that a sharp edge won't put a hole in your waders.

Today, when everything is so expensive and you pay over $100 for a pair of Gralites, it sure pays to take five minutes longer to wash them off and hang them up to dry.



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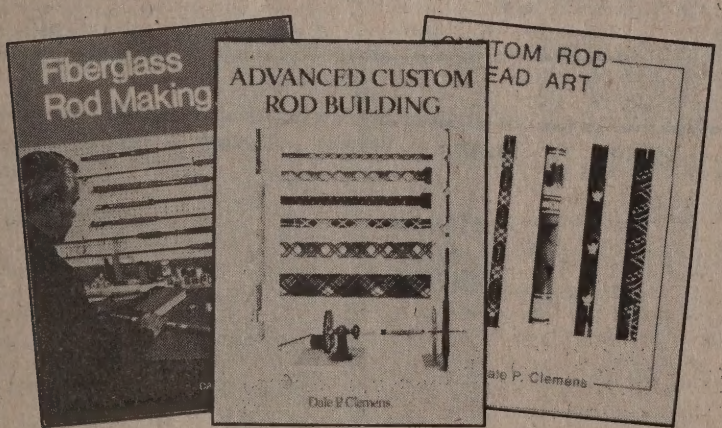

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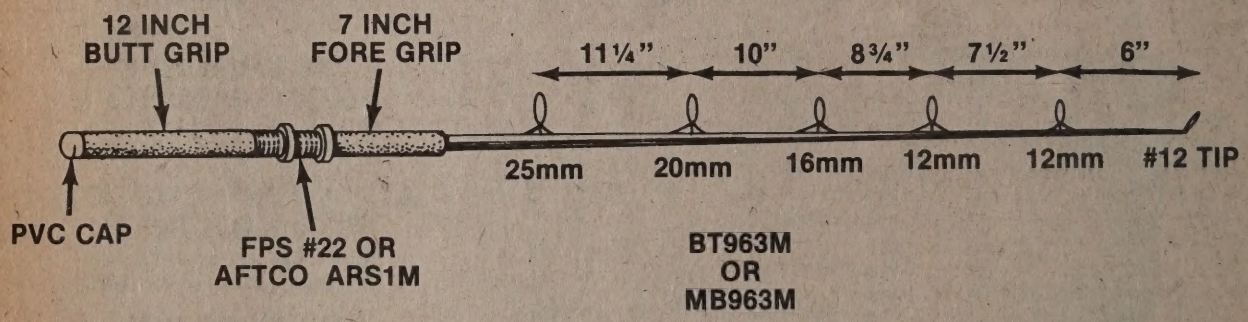
THE DIAMOND JIGGING ROD

by Kevin Bogan

Diamond jigging for bluefish has most party and charter boat captains convinced that this is the best method for a larger catch in a shorter period of time. While chumming with chunk baits remains very effective, jigs are preferred for a variety of reasons. While drifting baits through the water in large groups, the lines are fairly slack. In the time that it takes for an angler to detect a strike, and set the hook, a fast moving fish may already have a few lines tangled. No need to say what kind of headaches will develop here. Drifting baits to fish 40 to 60 feet from the boat takes time. On a slow day a fishermen could lose interest, or wind up with more tangles.

The activity involved while jigging keeps a fisherman on his toes, ready for the strike on the way down and on the way up from the bottom. It also allows the angler to choose a variety of distances from the boat, angles of retrieve, and selection of depths. On a party boat the direction of the lines leading from the boat are more evident. This allows for far fewer tangles and helps the deckhands in directing the flow of fish coming in on a good day or coming in on a true "hatchet job."

The rod I have chosen here is a seven foot "Machine Gun Deluxe," capable of shooting lead with accuracy and distance. It will work best with medium sized conventional speed reels such as the Penn Jigmaster and Squidder, Daiwa 30H, 27H, Shimano Tritons I & II, and also the Newell #200 Series. Twenty to thirty pound



BLANK: LAMIGLAS BT963M-cut 6 inches off top, 6 inches off bottom

ALTERNATES: DYNAFLEX 2084, 0705
FENWICK 8420
LAMIGLAS MB963M-cut 6 inches off top, 6 inches off bottom

SPACING: DYNAFLEX 8420-same as LAMIGLAS BT and MB blanks (#14 tip)
FENWICK-cut 2 inches off tip (#10 tip)
from tip-5 3/4, 6 3/4, 7 3/4, 9 1/2 and 11 inches

GUIDES: VARMAC AGB-25, 20, 16, 12, and 12 millimeters with a #12 tip
FUJI BNHG, NHG
DAIWA-DYNAFLO guides

For extra-heavy action 30 to 50 pound test:
FENWICK 8430
FISHER 8430
DYNAFLEX 3084

test are average line weights, with my favorite, 25 pound test.

Blank: The Lamiglas BT963M has a soft, medium action which helps to absorb shock from sudden surges as the fish scoots the other way, and helps to prevent line breakage if you have a rough working drag or become entangled with another fisherman. Bluefish most often hit lures down deep or far from the boat, often out of the fisherman's view. If the fish is lip-hooked, the softness of this rod could save a lost fish if the hook is just barely in the lip or jaw. This could mean winning the pool on a slow day or prevent you from being skunked. Another major advantage of this rod is that it can be used year-round for both mackerel and whiting and handle each situation with authority. This blank is 8 feet overall. Six inches should be cut from the bottom and six inches from the top to make it the seven foot finished rod.

Guides: Diamond jigging rods see a large amount of casting, retrieving, and fish fighting. The guides must have a "speed" type surface such as the ceramics, chromed Dynaflo, or silicon carbide.

My preference is the Varmac AGB series. They have aluminum oxide inserts, protected by a thick nylon shock ring. Stainless steel wire frames, which are center braced make these perhaps the most durable of all medium duty guides. Abuse is their "cup of tea." The oxide insert provides for a minimum of line wear.

Reel Seat: I have chosen two reel seats which can handle the payload with ease. They are: Fuji FPS22 and AFTCO ARS1m. The Fuji 22 is known for its super light weight, and strong stainless hoods. The AFTCO ARS1m is the same seat used on Aftco Uni Butts. While providing machined hoods they are light in weight, corrosion resistant, and durable beyond comparison. A Varmac LW1X would be a good third choice. It's brass chromed, sturdy, but light in weight.

Grips: Synthetic foam grips are the best bet simply because of their durability and long wear features. A 12 inch butt grip teamed with a 2 inch PVC butt cap, or Nylon gimbal gives adequate length for comfort while fishing. A 7 or 8 inch foregrip is a good choice by allowing enough room to shift hand position for leverage purposes. After installing the foregrip you can install a rubber winding check for a finished touch.

Tips: Jigging styles vary from person to person, but the basic needs for a successful rod still prevail. A medium action (one that bends in the center of the rod) is an absolute must. If you choose a small bait caster reel and light line, 12 to 20 lb. test, medium action will best fight line breakage. With heavier rods, the softness of this action helps to keep a hook from being dislodged during the fight while trying to boat a fish before its time.

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GETTING STARTED IN THE SURF

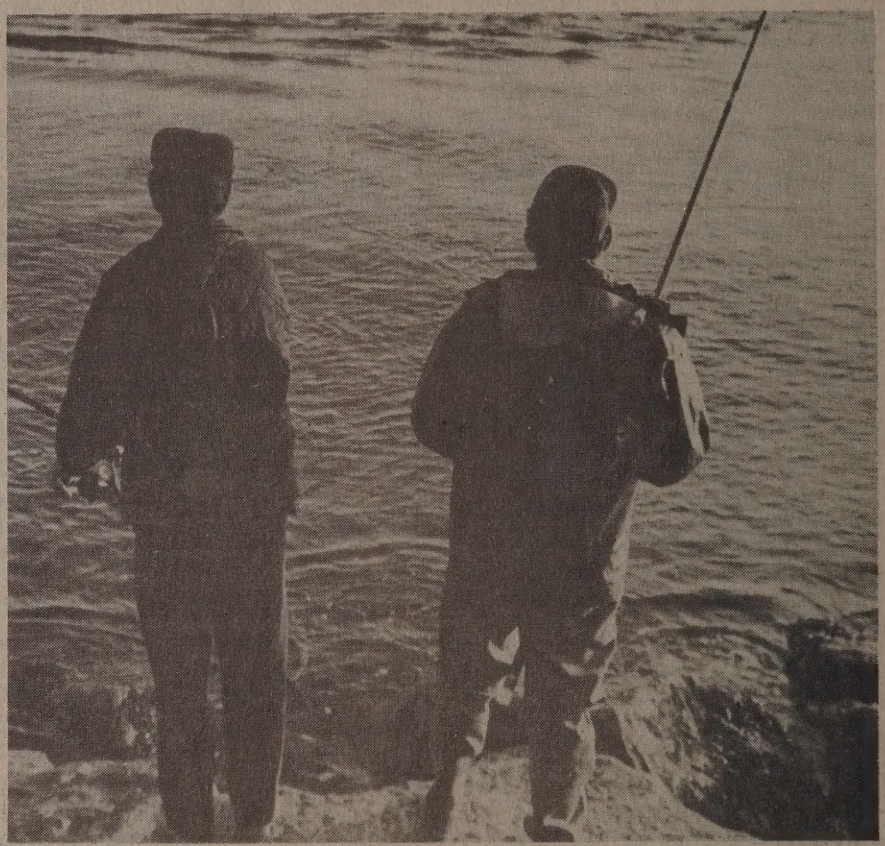
by John Fritz

The author, a hard core surf nut, shares some hard earned lessons with newcomers to the sport.

A person aspiring to become proficient in any undertaking has a distinct advantage if a friend, knowledgeable in that field, is willing to share his expertise. Therefore, a novice beach fisherman, fortunate enough to have a veteran surfcaster who is willing to show him the ropes has little need of reading further. Just thank your good fortune, for such a friend can save you many hours of frustration and disappointment. For those of you starting out on your own, I will attempt to put you on the right track in regard to gear and execution so that you may avoid some of the pitfalls I encountered when I joined the ranks of those hardy souls who prowl the water's edge. It is not an easy sport to master, for it involves much hard work and many hours away from the comforts of home, but the disappointments make those successful trips so much more gratifying, for catching game fish from the surf is the ultimate fishing experience.

As everyone is well aware, Long Island has basically two dissimilar shore lines: the normally placid waters of Long Island Sound and the south coast battered by the relentless Atlantic Ocean. As a general rule, fishing the outer south shore beaches is more demanding, requiring heavier tackle and more physical effort to counter the more potent surf. A newcomer to the sport might consider confining his efforts to more gentle waters such as found inside the inlets or on the north shore. Until he is comfortable in the use of his new equipment. In a similar vein, fishing during the daylight hours is also advisable until one's skills are perfected to a point where most tasks can be performed in dim light. It is important that a surfman be proficient in the use of his equipment for the best surf fishing takes place at night or during periods of inclement weather when natural forces will compound any ineptitude on the part of the angler.

It should be noted, before we proceed any further, that the ancient adage stating, "You only get what you pay for," holds true in fishing equipment as well as most other manufactured items in our society. Spectacular buys should be checked carefully, with better bargains more likely during the off season when store owners are inclined to move out their old stock in preparation for the new line of equipment as the new season approaches. The point should also be made that it is preferable to deal with the smaller specialized tackle stores rather than the larger department type chains. There are several reasons for this line of thought, not the least of which will be the flow of fishing information once the proprietor realizes that you are a steady customer. It has also been my experience that some of the clerks in the larger stores have little knowledge of the particular sport. The complexities of surf fishing are sufficiently challenging to master without being given evasive or incomplete answers, for few people in any line of business will admit that they do not know the answer to a specific question. When a helpful, straightforward tackle shop is found, stick with it, for until a circle of fishing buddies can be cultivated, the tackle store owner will be your best source of up-to-date information. The listings of tackle stores found in this publication will undoubtedly show one in your neighborhood or preferably one in close proximity to where most of your fishing will take place.



Beginning surfmen would do well to spend more time working the inside of South Shore inlets or the North Shore during daylight.

Little, if any fish can be caught without the aid of a suitable rod and reel, so let's begin with the two most basic items in a fisherman's arsenal. There is no one fishing rod that will perform all tasks well, but a medium action 10 foot stick will provide the greatest versatility until specific needs can be recognized and appropriate tackle can be acquired for each aspect of the sport to be undertaken. Naturally, if money is no problem, equipment designed for all phases of

surf fishing can be purchased at one time, but even then, it is wise to proceed one step at a time until it is clear which direction your interests will take you.

My personal preference lies in one piece blanks, but for a start a moderate priced two piece rod will suffice. If at all possible, try to purchase only brand name items with the better rods featuring glass jointed ferrules. The quality of the glass blank guides, and reel seat will be satisfactory for many journeys to the shore. One reel appropriate for such a rod is the Penn 704Z. This is a sturdy American-made item which has functioned well for me even after repeated submersions while fishing in a wet suit. Some of my associates prefer the skirted spool Penn 650SS, but the $15 price difference of the 704Z will be easier on one with a tight budget. Of major importance when purchasing a reel is to check on the availability of replacement parts and service. With Penn reels, both are in ample supply. The 704Z has a rated capacity of 285 yards of 15 lb. test line which is just a means of showing that it will hold sufficient line for just about every development encountered in local waters. Before the spool is filled with a good all-around quality line, such as 15 lb. test pink or green Ande, a few layers of nylon squidding line should cover the spool's core to absorb the pressure build-up of tightly wrapped monofilament line.

Now that we have the means to get our lure into the water, let us cover briefly just what that lure should be. When undertaking any new endeavor a certain measure of success is a welcome boost to urge one on to further efforts. The best chance of success, with the least expenditure of cash or the need of advanced knowledge, is with the use of bait. A package of fishfinder rigs, a few three to five ounce Pyramid sinkers, hooks, and a bait suitable for the season and species being sought is a good step towards getting that first fish on the beach. Specifics on the varied aspects of baitfishing are too lengthy to cover here, but assuming you are taking your initial trip at the start of the season, blood or sandworms on a 2/0 Eagle Claw bait holder hook would be considered a likely choice in seeking striped bass or weakfish. Fishing cut bait, either bunker or mackerel, with a 5/0 Siwash hook will add bluefish to the list of possibilities during the last weeks of May or early June. As a general rule, all bait with the exception of live eels are used in conjunction with cork floats; therefore, a supply of 2"x1" oval corks which are supplied with a drawstring should be on hand. When fishing bottom a plug bag is not necessary, for all odds and ends may be carried in a plastic pail, but a sand spike will facilitate matters immeasurably. This item can be purchased for a few dollars or fashioned from a piece of PVC pipe.

Just as a stamp collector can never acquire enough stamps, so it is with a fisherman as he begins gathering artificial lures. Even when fishing bait it is always wise to carry a few basic artificials along in case you happen to be witness to one of the greatest thrills in surf fishing—game fish excitedly pursuing bait on the surface—a time when bait lying stationary on the bottom is of little use.

A variety of basic lures should include such items as: a 2 oz. Hopkins No-Eql, a 2 oz. Kastmaster, a 1½ oz. Hopkins Shorty, a 2 oz. Atom Striper Swiper, a 2 oz. Rebel Super Minnow floater, 2½ oz. Jr. Atom swimmer, 2 oz. Rebel Super Minnow sinker and a 1 oz. red TriFin Eel Worm. The color selection of the listed plugs is difficult to determine without knowledge of prevailing water conditions and existing bait species, but silver or blue are usually productive shades under universal conditions.

A package of 50 lb. test Duo-Lock snaps, for quick exchange of lures and a few wire leaders should bluefish be the quarry will complete a well-balanced selection of fishing tackle.

A pair of good quality waders is probably the most expensive single item to be purchased. The initial outlay of cash for all the other gear may dictate the purchase of a pair of cheap waders just to get you through the first year of fishing. As the cooler weather of the fall approaches it would be advisable to get a quality pair of Red Ball or Gra-Lite waders. When shopping for waders, it is wise to try them on at the store, for many of the cheap waders do not provide ample freedom of movement. Remember also that a pair of heavy socks will normally be worn, so make allowances when choosing your boot size. A moderate priced nylon top will complete the waterproof ensemble providing the angler with complete protection during periods of inclement weather when fishing is often at its best.

A few minor items are yet to be discussed. A belt is not absolutely necessary, but it will provide a valuable service for the surf caster who must carry all his gear with him. The two major items secured to the belt are the fish stringer and a gaff. In most instances, the purchase of a gaff can be delayed for the fish can be slid onto the beach, but a stringer is a handy item if the fish to be caught are kept, especially if a considerable walk to the car is involved. This stringer need be little more than a six to ten foot length of nylon rope. The fashioning of a fancy stainless steel chain stringer can be delayed until the more important articles are obtained. Do not waste your money buying a clip type freshwater stringer for after several exposures to saltwater, they will become covered with rust. Another inexpensive item, which is an absolute must for any fisherman working the hours after sunset, is a small flashlight. A simple $2 throw-away found in many hardware stores is sufficient. A strap can be attached

(Continued on page 30.)

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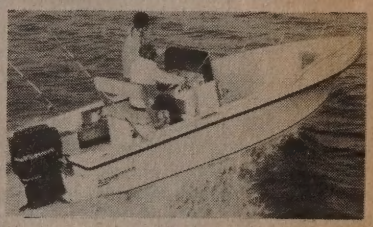

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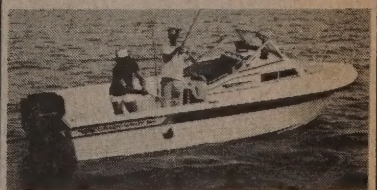

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A STAND UP CANYON ROD

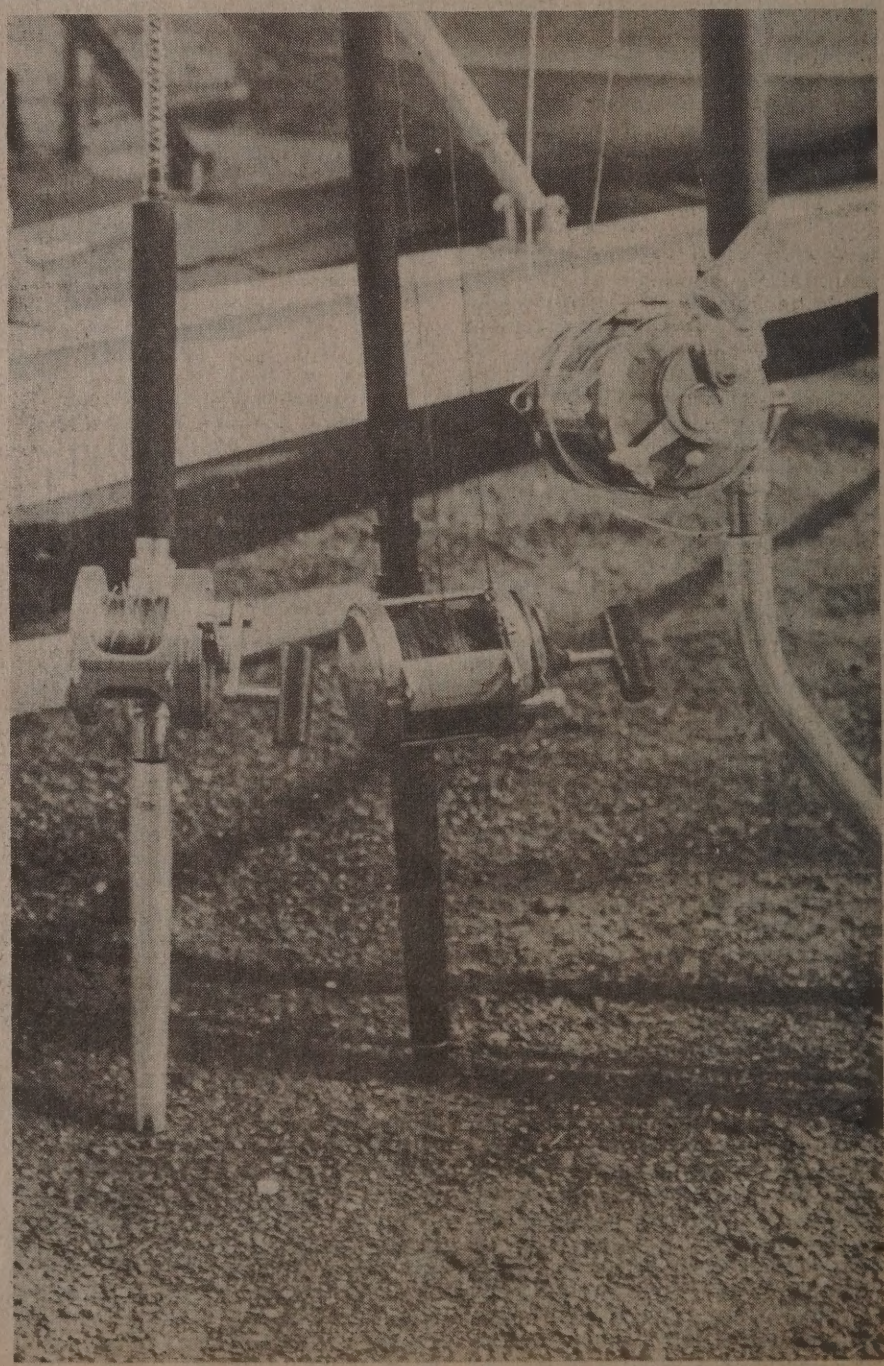
by Lou Truppi

Canyon anglers often find themselves overburdened by tackle designed for use with a fighting chair.

Many fishermen are introduced each year to fishing one or more of the canyons that lie off the New York and Jersey Coasts. I'm sure that many of these same anglers can verify the tenacity exhibited by the species that play those waters. Much of these tenacities are transmitted into excessively sore muscles for many days following a prolonged bout with canyon marlin and tuna.

Many anglers always look at the fish as being the culprit for a sore back and aching arms. Hardly anyone points the accusing finger at an improperly matched rod and reel which translates into a cumbersome fish fighting outfit. In many instances, this is surely the case.

As routine canyon tackle, many of you are equipped with outfits that are suited for use exclusively with a fighting chair. The rods are heavy in weight, reflecting stiff tapers, topped off with oversize reels loaded with 100 to 130# class mono and dacron lines. A formidable outfit you bet. It will best anything swimming including at times, the angler. However, with a little forethought and fresh ideas many of us can graduate from winching in our fish, back to playing our fish with tackle designed for the job. Since very few boats running to these offshore locales carry more than one fighting chair, what happens when your boat (if you fall into this single chair category) develops a severe case of multiple big fish hook-ups? Mass confusion, lost fish or tangled lines rule due to your crew's inability to wrestle standing up with these oversized outfits and fight several tough fish simultaneously. Remember, many inexperienced anglers are suddenly thrust into this undesirable position of fighting these large fish with tackle better suited for a professional weightlifter. I'm sure we've all experienced these situations on a canyon run. Now I believe I can help many of you sidestep these pitfalls originated by the use of overkill tackle. I hope to enlighten you to downgrade your equipment to the size the neophyte and experienced angler alike will find comfortable yet entirely powerful enough to withstand the rigors of battling 99 percent of your canyon's species in a stand-up



Left to Right: Standard aluminum butt; Stroker rod design (note position of reel and longer foregrip); Standard bent butt for use with fighting chair.

position with a lot less angler fatigue.

Much of this tackle is already in use and has been for years on the West Coast's long range party boats. Truly brute size tuna and a variety of other species are landed regularly by many West Coast stand-up anglers. The only difference between our two groups of anglers is the tackle selection. Since a party boat does not have fighting chairs, these anglers are forced to wrestle with these heavyweight fish in a standing position. What they've done is simply modify their tackle to display less abusiveness to the angler while maintaining a formidable amount of fish stopping power. I agree with their format entirely when it comes to fighting big fish in a standing position. You'll be surprised at the ease with which you can fight these powerful canyon fish in this manner with well chosen tackle.

First, let's start with reel selection. If your budget can bear it the Penn International series, is a strong choice. The model I've relied on for most of my canyon fishing the past several years has been the 50W International. A good back-up choice would be your standard 9/0 Senator. Both of these reels will hold 500 yds. or so of 80# class dacron. Since much of our canyon fishing is performed by trolling medium to high speed lures, the dacron lines are a solid choice. The boats are already in motion so the reel capacity is more than sufficient to run down the most stubborn of fish.

The aluminum rod butt certainly has taken command on the canyon rod circuit, and justifiably so.

Our modern offshore fishing techniques require an unbreakable rod butt coupled with powerful lightweight trolling rods sporting high quality smooth guides. Well, every rod seems to fit this bill, but do they really?

Our situation off the Long Island coast when canyon fishing many times will require one or more anglers to fight their fish in a standing position. Since the predominant canyon fish in our neck of the ocean is the yellowfin or big eye tuna, these encounters can be considerable. Multiple hookups occur frequently and since as I've mentioned most boats sport only one fighting chair, that leaves the other anglers to fight their fish with standing room only. A couple of years ago at the canyon I observed a boat trolling six rods. They looked to be in the 80# class all displaying bent aluminum butts. The boat had one fighting chair and four anglers. Point being if a school of big eye tuna chose to raid their baits, I'm sure those anglers would lose many of those fish or at best initiate a very tough set of circumstances within that boat's cockpit to fight any of those fish. This needn't be the way at all.

Two seasons ago, the canyon was loaded with big eye tuna. Many of you, I'm sure as I did, had numerous multiple hookups from some fairly decent size big eye tuna. Again, this created a situation for many anglers regardless of their experience of being forced to do battle with a 200 lb. fish in a standing position. Hard on your body? You bet! Well, let's try to alleviate some of this strain by choosing a rod that will help and not hinder your fish fighting abilities when in a standing position.

For several seasons now I have experimented with a new rod design that qualifies as light but very powerful fighting tool. Before I go into detail about this rod design, I might add I have tried the longer rod styles that seem to be popular with shark fishermen but those also proved unsatisfactory when fishing large fish.

The rod acts as a lever. The longer rods give away too much of this leverage to the fish thus making the angler work harder. They definitely are more forgiving when a tightened drag cannot respond quickly to a powerful fish's sudden lunge for freedom. However, it's this same soft action that cannot exhibit positive control over your fish, thus prolonging the battle needlessly. So rod length and blank power is important when subduing large fish. Perhaps even more important is rod butt length especially to the standing angler.

Getting back to the rod design I've settled on for my canyon fishing. Since a really decent fish may be taken at any time when fishing these offshore waters, I've chosen two blanks on which to build my rods. The first choice goes to the 80# graphite blanks. These blanks selected for their power and light weight, make superb stand-up rods. Incorporate the new lightweight unit-butts into their design and you have a rod that will perform flawlessly under a variety of circumstances. Since these 80# graphite blanks maintain smaller diameters, you should always opt for the smallest uni-butt or standard butt that will do the job. In other words, if you choose to use a 50W International, 80 International or 9/0 reel with this rod, choose the smallest rod butt that will allow for these reels to fit securely. By using as I do the #2 Uni-butts you can save weight and added cumbersome length. The smaller butts are somewhat shorter and much easier for the stand-up angler to maintain that ever important leverage. I shorten all my uni-butts by machining one inch from the forearm section of the butt above the reel seat. Remember, this rod design can be used with a chair although its primary function is to allow you to fight fish without those cumbersome heavy rods designed basically for use with a fighting chair.

Another excellent blank to fulfill this application is the J. Kennedy Fischer 50# class heavy blank. This blank weighs more than the comparable 80# graphite blank but possesses that extra power that is needed to break the big fish's spirit. These rods I've designed possess the power of many 80# rods that many anglers now own but only weigh one-half as much. Coupled with these shortened butts, they maintain maximum angler leverage for the stand-up fisherman. If you already own the standard aluminum butts, you can shorten these. Any qualified machinist can remove the gimbal and cut the butt two inches, then re-press the gimbal into place. If you follow this procedure, make sure you pin this gimbal. Mine are pinned with stainless steel rods and epoxied permanently in position. To benefit from this design, your rods should be constructed in accordance with this design. When you shorten the butts, you should also increase the length of the rod grips. The dropped reel position will now allow you to grasp the rod with a stronger and less fatiguing two-hand grip in-between pumping the fish. (No photo) Therefore, grips of 12 to 14 inches are now the rule. Grip size should be of the thinner, form style Veltex or cork. Unlike fighting a fish in the chair with a kidney harness to assist the anglers in gripping and pumping of the rod, the stand-up angler must rely on his own gripping power to move that rod, thus these thinner grips provide for a firmer hold point especially under pressure.

Guides can be either the roller style or Fuji bridge style trolling guides. I've used both and found both satisfactory. My choice in roller guides remains the Fin-Nor nylon roller guides. These guides are lightweight and provide good clearance for doubled lines. Another roller guide I've also experienced decent results with on my 80# stand-up rods has been the Pucci roller guides. These guides are designed like miniature gold Fin-Nors. They provide excellent quality yet are light and strong with plenty of room for line clearance.

I prefer the 50W reels mounted on my rods. These reels loaded with 500 yds. of 80# class dacron, turn this outfit into a formidable fish catcher. I've personally taken many 250 to 400 lb. class tuna with this outfit. I'm sure it'll definitely stand-up to much larger tuna or marlin without any trouble. In fact, any fish found within our canyon limits can be landed with this style lightweight outfit. A friend of mine landed a 528 lb. tiger shark with this outfit off Ocean City, Maryland two years ago. This shark was subdued within 40 minutes without any difficulty. In this case a fighting chair was used to aid the angler.

If you decide to build one of my "Stroker" style rods, I'm sure you'll notice a marked improvement in your crew's ability to land 100 lb. fish with a lot less fatigue and backaches. Be sure to provide them and yourself with good quality shoulder harnesses and gimbal belts to do the job that puts the power on your side.

So there you have it, a formula for a powerful yet lightweight stand-up canyon rod. Try one this season. Your back will be the first to agree that you made the right decision.

1982 AT MONTAUK

Part One—*by Capt. John DeMaio*

A veteran and expert inshore charter skipper reviews this past season's ups and downs.

In a phrase, 1982 can be described as a "win some, lose some," season. Some species showed as the best in years while others were a disappointment. More than any year I can remember, the weather played an important role in the movement of fish.

My first charter was March 30th. We fished south of Montauk at Cartwright and found 76 cod. That was the beginning of the best spring run of cod in Montauk that we have had in a good many years. Because of poor weather I didn't fish again until April 12th.

Referring to the winter storm of April 6th and 7th as simply poor weather is comical. Northerly winds of 60 miles per hour drove eight inches of snow to the ground that stayed for days because of freezing temperatures. As a direct result of this major winter storm, inshore waters remained cold beyond the normal time period, thus creating poor fishing for several species in the east end area.

By the end of April, the weather was exceptionally good. Mild temperatures and a long period of calm seas were the order of the day. and the cod were there! On April 23rd I had what I believed to be my best day on cod in some time. Three anglers scored with 130 codfish. The following day my party had 146. Scores of fish in the hundreds were common this past spring. Charter boats who carry six passengers counted over 200 codfish at day's end on numerous occasions. One boat had a grand total of 302 fish.

Fishing was spread out over a variety of spots. South of Montauk was good. Cartwright and the CIA received the most play but were not the only areas fished. Knowledgeable fishermen did well in other areas such as Frisbees and Rocky Hill. To the east, Southwest Ledge gave up a lot of small cod to boats that played the tide right. It was south of Block Island that was the real "hotspot." Here is where the highest scores were made.

Except for the immediate shallow waters surrounding Montauk, every spot that held cod in the past did so this year. Even western Long Island produced cod last spring. Could it be that cod are on the upswing? Let's hope so. The promise of good codfishing is worthy of celebration.

My most impressive day on cod occurred south of Montauk on May 1st. I returned home early at 1PM with four arm-weary fishermen. A score of 40 cod and five pollock gave a total weight of 1,200 pounds. The cod averaged 30 lbs. apiece, with the biggest weighing in at 54 pounds. All this action was on diamond jigs and tube droppers. Because of double headers breaking the lines, we had to take the hooks off the jigs and use the tube only. We should have such problems more often!

One of the fish that was severely affected by the April snowstorm was the flounder. The year before this saw Montauk blessed with a run of flounder that was reminiscent of the good ole days. Not so for the 1982 season.

My first attempt at flounder was on April 14th. After steaming all the way to Cartwright for codfish, rough seas and a party suffering from mal-de-mer forced me to turn around. I headed towards Promised Land and anchored off the bunker factory. Last year this early spot yielded 36 big flounder. Our efforts yielded 13 flatfish. The pattern was set. Once again, poor weather prompted another shot at the flounder. On April 28th a miserable high of four flounder hit the deck in the Promised Lane area. Because of a long period of calm seas, I fished very little for flounder and concentrated on the excellent codfishing. May 14th impressed me somewhat. A whopping 36 flounder was breaktaking. The same period of time last year showed catches as high as 90 flounder for a trip. Don't forget now, these east end flounder are big and 90 fish is considered very good.

In early June when Montauk should be producing big flounder in quantity the action was poor.

Some devoted flounder fans made good catches on these big flounder. A

Spring flounder fishing was a disappointment but the cod run was the best in years.

half a barrel of select chum poured out through two chum pots, four varieties of bait, and a long day's effort was the ticket to success. Even with all the above going for them these determined fishermen were hard pressed to go back the next day and do it again.

Win some—lose some! Very good codfishing and poor flounder fishing. At least we evened out on this one.

The "Vivienne's" last catch of spring flounder was marked by a dozen porgies. A serious attempt at porgies came on June 18th off the point. An afternoon charter was split between trolling offshore bluefish and porgy fishing on the last of the ebb tide. Besides 400 pounds of big bluefish we caught 100 lbs. of large sea porgies. Two days later on June 20th, four anglers took 270 pounds of porgies with the biggest going 3½ pounds.

I enjoy fishing the early run of porgies more than any time of the year. My reason being that the fish are mostly all big. Also, to further illustrate the surrounding cold water, about eight cod were taken mixed in with the scup. One fare had a double header of a 2½ lb. porgy and an 8 lb. cod.

Sea bass were a hard fish to come by all season. A day's porgy fishing might yield a dozen. No more. A few spots on Montauk's south side will produce some bass but not enough to call it a day's fishing. One lucky lad on the Vivienne whipped a 3½ lb. sea bass on a diamond jig. That was my most impressive sea bass of the season.

A late September run of porgies was super hot. On September 25 and again on the 27th, I filled up the box. Approximately 300 pounds of porgies. These fish were a lot smaller than those in June, but the action was great. As many as 12 double headers in a row came over the gunwale. All this action came in less than a whole tide and left time for other fish such as the bluefish.

A complete reversal of water temperature took place in the fall. Surrounding temperatures were higher than normal. So much so, that while seeking blackfish and cod on a December 1st trip, I caught a sea bass and a determined bluefish in the Cartwright area. Our biggest problem with the late fall warm water condition was the lingering dogfish that made codfishing a problem.

Dogfish even gobbled up some green crab bait while fishing for blacks. Otherwise the fall bottom fishing was good. Blackfish were there en masse as usual and some fair cod action could be found. On a december 5th charter the final count was 35 blacks and 40 cod. My last trip of the season was good for 45 codfish at the Hooter Buoy off Block Island. The biggest fish was a 20 pounder, that was on December 7th.

That's it for Part One. In Part Two, I will speak of fluke, weakfish, bluefish and striped bass.

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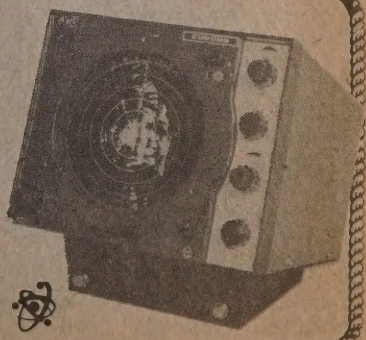

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—LONG ISLAND—
A FISHERMAN'S PARADISE

by Matt Ahern

Long Island is blessed with fishing opportunities unavailable anywhere else on the coast.

"Just about every school kid knows Long Island's shaped like a fish. But at the same time, I wonder do we realize, as fishermen, that it's also the greatest fishing spot on the East Coast? Yes, sir, whether we know it or not, I'd say we're just plain lucky."

So said Nick Hauck, my long-standing buddy of 45 years, as we fished for Island Park flounder on a chilly April morning. I didn't know what brought about this sudden observation, for certainly we weren't putting much of a dent in the flounder population. I wasn't feeling one bit lucky. I had yet to catch my first fish.

"You can tell me how lucky I am after I fill this bucket," I said. "But right now I'd rather not hear about it."

"Aw, c'mon, Matt. Have you forgotten how many times you did fill that bucket?"

I said nothing.

"There. See. You're like a lot of guys—you only see what you want to see."

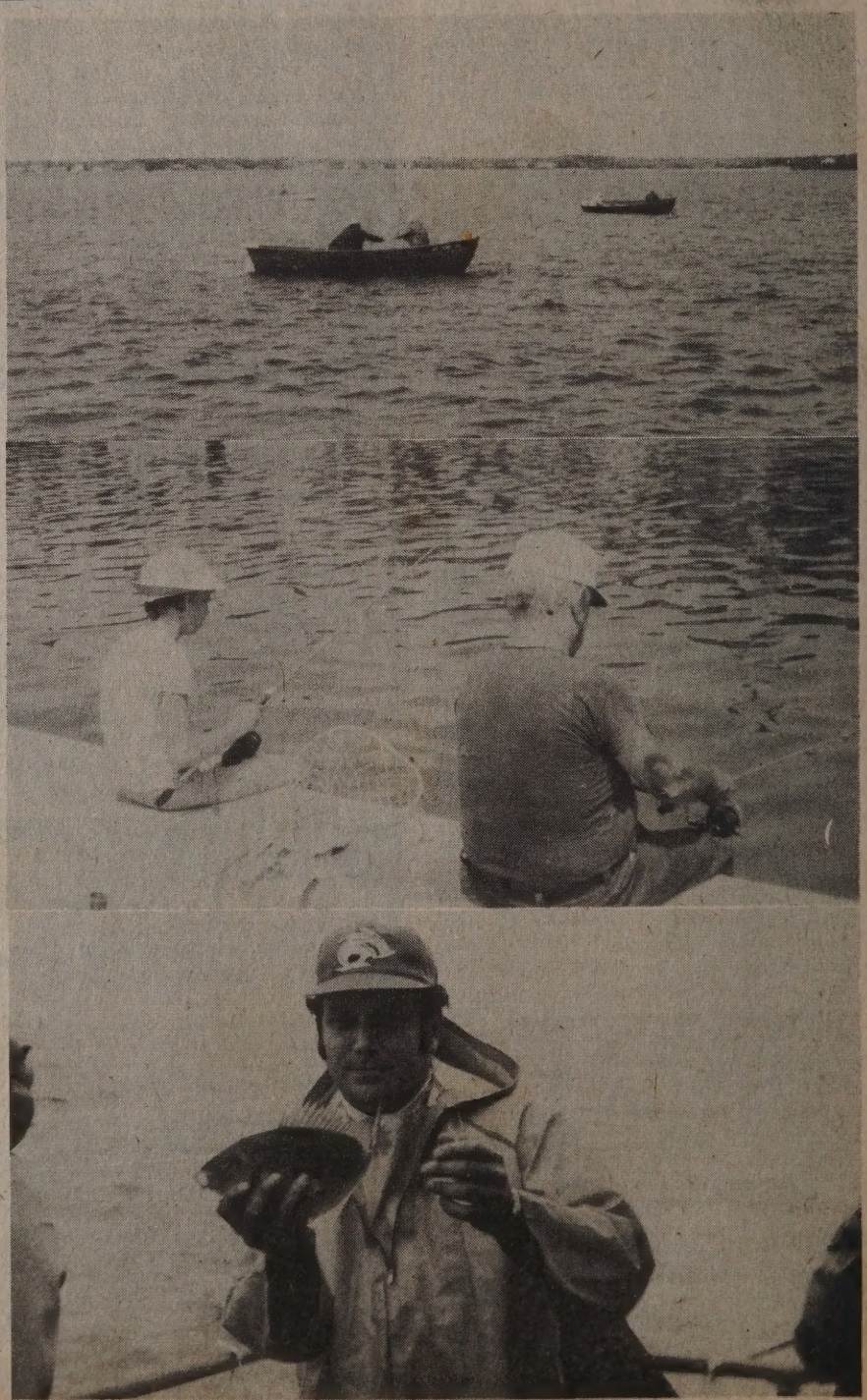
"Don't start, Nick. You win. So let's cut the chatter and fish."

And that's what we did, but our results were nothing to write home about. My records show we caught only eight flounder that day. But as the man says: that's the way the cookie crumbles.

While cleaning my share of the catch that evening, Nick's comments filled my thoughts—especially that part about our being lucky. He was right, of course. Long Island **is** a fisherman's paradise! I know few places which offer the abundance and variety of fish as does Long Island. Sure there are poor days, but remember this: It was God who made the roses, but the devil added the thorns.

Which fish appeals to you? Broadbill swordfish? White marlin? Tuna? Monster sharks? Many of the largest have been caught in Long Island waters. Blues? Weaks? We hold a back seat to no one. Codfishing? It's a 12-month operation on Long Island. Mackerel? We haven't really had a poor year in many a moon. Blackfish? A cinch...with tackle-busters common.

Sea bass? Porgy? We're still in there pitching. Fluke? Last summer showed definite improvement. Flounder? Boy! Do we have flounder!



Whether you fish from a skiff, from shore or a party boat, success comes easy on Long Island.

Plus ling, whiting, pollock, and snowshoe flounder. Snapper? Every summer since I can remember, these baby blues have abounded in teeming numbers, affording much sport for entire families.

We've got 'em all.

Yes, sir, for the bottom fisherman in particular, and for those fishermen who truly know their stuff, Long Island excels. It matters not where they dunk their bait in fishable water, they are almost certain to score.

Let's first consider the land-bound angler. For this fellow, Long Island has miles and miles of fish-producing shore line. Would you like to know just how much? Well, I checked the old reliable World Almanac and found that New York has a coastline of 127 miles—and a **shore line** of 1,850 miles! Simply amazing! And for the land-bound fisherman who can't get some kind of action from this amount of fish-producing water, I have but one thing to say: you really aren't trying very hard!

Sure, some of this is private property and some areas have restrictions due to commercial enterprises, etc., but much of it is open to fishermen, especially out east. And don't forget those piers, canals, groins, and jetties. These can be great fish-producers.

But every fisherman is his own man and, sad to say, not everyone enjoys casting from lovely moon-washed beaches or sun-drenched shores. And for these anglers, one of the most popular methods of fishing is to use the facilities of the many party boats leaving from just about every port along the south shore, stretching from Brooklyn to Montauk, and thence back along the north shore.

Many of these rugged craft are bottom fishing boats, manned by experienced, professional skippers and crews. Over the years, these party boats have provided top-notch fishing for multitudes of happy, satisfied anglers.

Some of these party boat patrons fish in bays, some in the Sound, and some several miles offshore in the ocean proper. Several of the larger boats occasionally make longer journeys offshore to distant fish-producing wrecks, leaving one day and returning the next. But no matter what the destination might be, to spend a day on the water with these professionals and their "regulars" is to enjoy fishing to its utmost. It is something that isn't soon forgotten.

For the angler who likes specialized fishing and super-service, charter boats are available everywhere good fishing is found. During the season the demand for these charter boats is high, and it sometimes seems to me that there are more of these particular type of craft plying Long Island waters than anywhere on the East Coast. Arrangements for fishing aboard these boats can be made in advance for any kind of fishing desired. Like party boat skippers, charter boat captains have a great reputation for catching fish.

Then for the angler who would rather fish sheltered waters with a buddy or two, Long Island has many fishing stations spotted around every good fishing area. These stations provide large, ruggedly constructed skiffs, plus any bait or tackle needed. Rest rooms and ample parking facilities are always available and most liveries have the convenience of hot coffee and sandwiches should these be desired.

I know beginning fishermen who hesitate when deciding upon renting a skiff, for surely a stranger in a strange land applies here. But these gentlemen need have no fears, for the station owner is only too happy to pinpoint the best fishing spot. As do all good party and charter boat skippers, these station operators will not con an unsuspecting fisherman. If there are fish to be had, these fellows will let it be known, and by the same token, if the fishing is slow, they won't hesitate to say so.

I don't know what fishermen would do without Long Island's bait and tackle shops. Bait needed for any fish in season is always obtainable, and here, too, are often found large selections of the best and latest in the tackle maker's art. It is here, also, where veteran fishermen meet and swap information.

Next to joining a fishing club, fishermen will find no better source of last minute information than that available at these tackle shops. Their owners have been serving Long Island fishermen for years and there isn't any question on the subject of rods, reels, terminal tackle, and the best places to fish that these enterprising businessmen can't answer. Just about all these fellows are fishermen themselves and what news they pass around is honest, up-to-date information.

Want a custom built rod to suit your style of fishing? These are the boys to see. Want a reasonably-priced rod, one that won't fold under the strain of an outsized fish? They've got it, and you may be sure it will deliver the years of satisfaction and service you are entitled to expect.

Be advised, too, to seek out a tackle shop with the homey, attractive atmosphere you can live with, then become "one of the boys" and watch your fishing skill increase. It can go no other way but up.

All these are reasons why Long Island's sparkling, sunlit waters are hard to resist. Often teeming with fish, they beckon and beg the working man to forget his workaday cares and gather up his tackle and spend a day pursuing his favorite sport.

If you're not already a dyed-in-the-wool fisherman and just wetting your feet so to speak, not only will you soon discover why Long Island is a fisherman's paradise, but it won't be long before you'll have fish beating a tattoo in your bucket. Try it. You'll be convinced.

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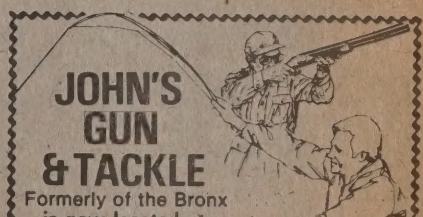

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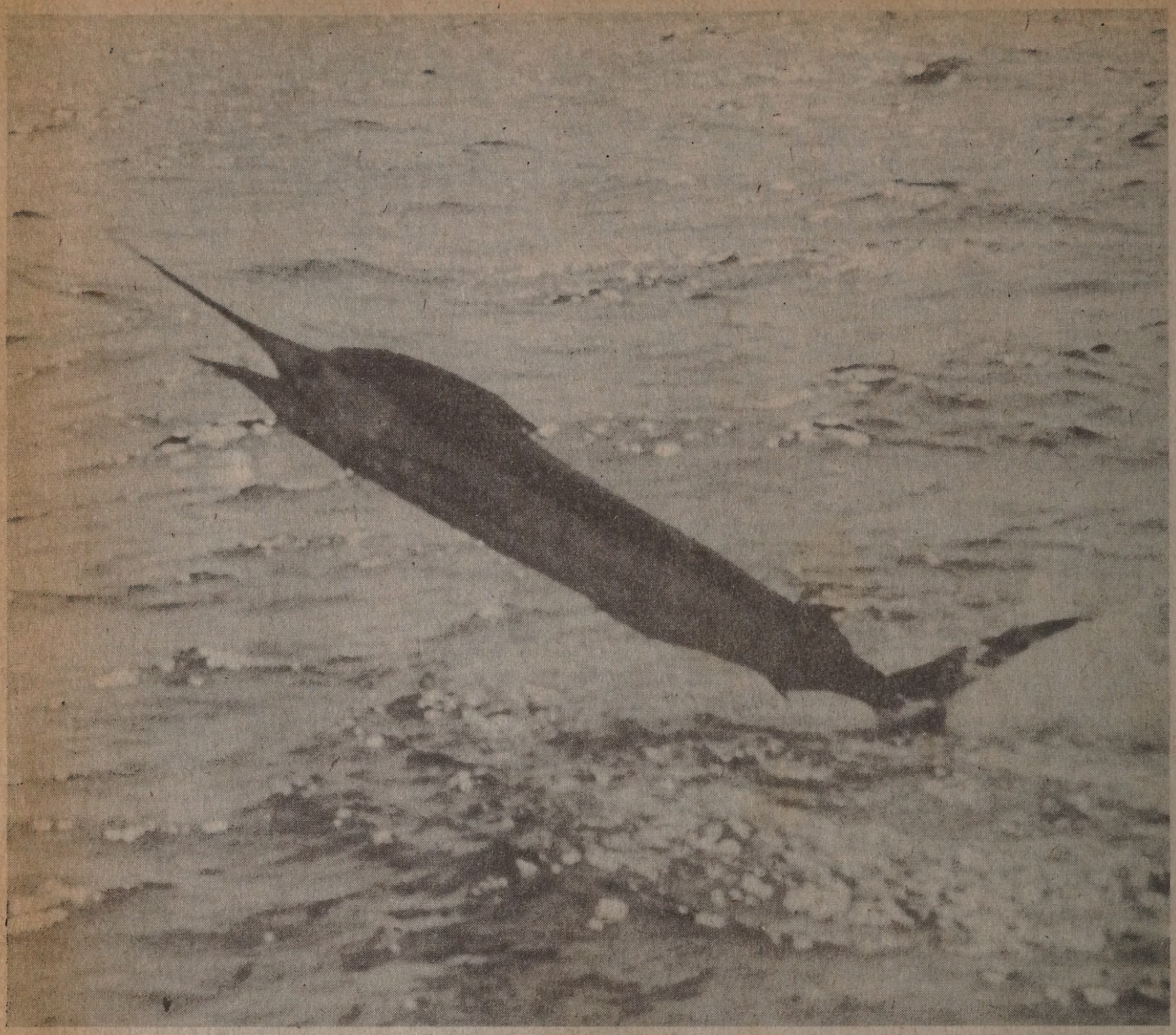


WINTER TRAVEL OPTIONS

by Al Ristori

A winter break to some warm weather fishing area certainly seems to make spring arrive sooner, so let's take a look at some mid-winter possibilities. I'll start with the most exotic and work back closer to home.

If you really want to do something different, give some thought to a trip to New Zealand. That country certainly has to rank with the most beautiful in the world, and the people are very friendly. Indeed, an American can feel right at home—and it's quite practical to rent a car and "do-it-yourself" all the way. The only problem is remembering to drive on the left!

Since the seasons are reversed in New Zealand, now is the time to go. Not only is the weather perfect, but the saltwater fishing is at its peak. Zane Grey discovered great striped marlin fishing in the Bay of Islands area half a century ago. That fishing may not be as good these days, but it has improved considerably since the foreign longliners were kicked out. Furthermore, this is where the world's biggest striped marlin are taken. Some black and blue marlin are caught, and the area is also noted for outsized mako sharks. From a smaller game point of view, the yellowtail fishing is very impressive. This is not the yellowtail snapper we're familiar with in Florida, but a large Pacific species which is closely related to the amberjack.

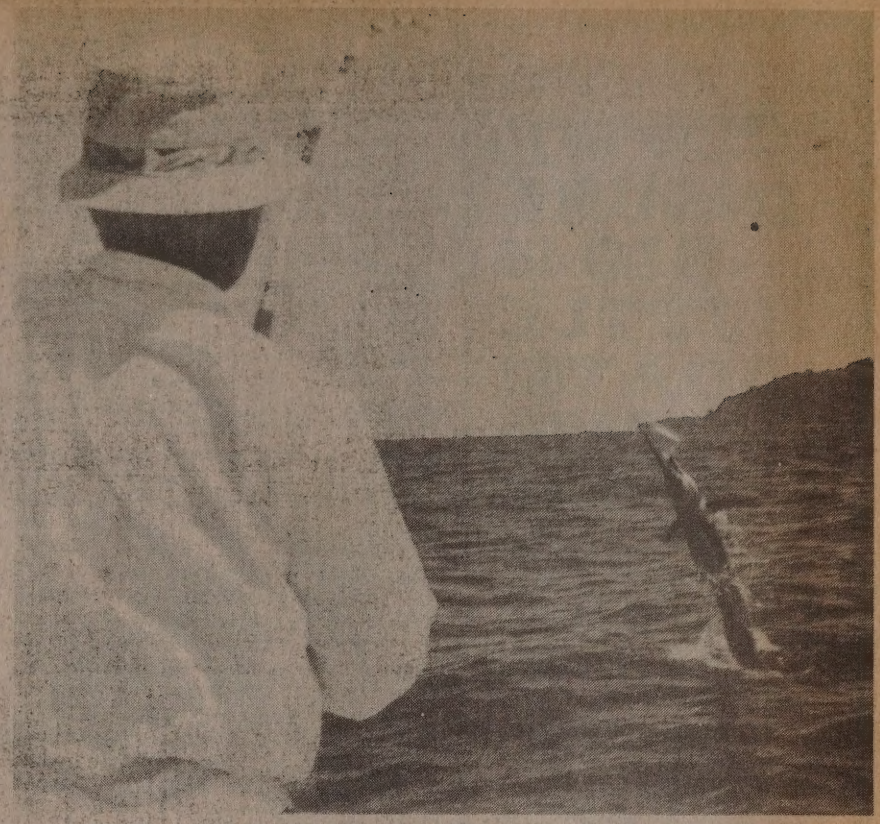
Yellowtail run to over 100 pounds in New Zealand, and 20 to 60 pounders are common. Two years ago I made an overnight trip out of Whakatane on the "Toa Tai," a 45 foot charter boat that specializes in two-day yellowtail trips. We fished off White Island, which has an active volcano, and enjoyed great sport with yellowtail on live bait. I happened to have a single

Ava 27 with me and found that it was just as effective on the yellowtails and trevally (a typically tough type of jack). At night we drifted in 100 fathoms and caught "sea bass," bluenose and warehou on the bottom. Captain Rick Pollock even managed to boat a 150 pound sea bass on a 6/0 Daiwa Sealine filled with barely enough 100 pound mono to reach bottom! The oddest catch we had was an escolar, or oilfish—a primitive species found in the great depths of several oceans. A bit of trolling produced a nice yellowfin tuna, a couple of albacore and a skipjack—but I was there in April, which is a bit late for that sport. From January to March they catch many more of these tunas, plus striped marlin. This is a great deal for a group, as the rates are quite low. At the time, 10 days and nine nights in Whakatane cost just $770—and that included six days of fishing, all meals aboard the boat, hotel and transfers. For current details write to Geoffrey & Lynne Voisin, Pacific Experts, 8701 Delganey Ave., 319 Playa Del Ray, CA 90291 (213-821-8956).

New Zealand is even more famed for its trout fishing. Depending on the area, that's something which is available all year. A day license in most districts is only $1.50, and a week's license goes for $2.50. A special one month tourist license for $12 entitles you to fish anywhere. Practically all waters are available to the angler, and you can enjoy excellent fishing by renting a car and fishing the multitude of streams and lakes while staying at inexpensive motels. If you're inclined toward something special, try Reg Turner's Solitaire Lodge (R.D. 5, Lake Tarawera, Rotorua, New Zealand). This is a gorgeous lodge on a famed trophy rainbow trout lake. Only six guests (at $150 each) are accommodated at a time, but the price includes a boat, Reg's guiding services (if desired), meals, transportation and even liquor. Huge Lake Taupo is the most famous in New Zealand, and though its rainbows don't average 5½ pounds (as the Tarawera fish do) they run about 3½ to 4½ pounds and are abundant. The lake produces 600-700 tons of trout per year and biologists claim it is underfished! You can fish this lake in small boats, or on the 51-foot "Waianiwa" skippered by former Olympic rowing gold medalist Simon Dickie (South Pacific Sporting Adventures, P.O. Box 682, Taupo, New Zealand). Fly fishing the stream mouths is the most sporting method of catching these trout, and Tongariro Lodge is ideally situated for that sport.

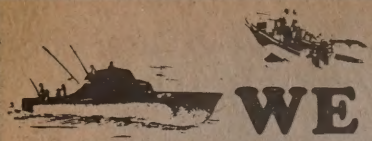
For fishing information in New Zealand, write to Rex Forrester, Tourist and Publicity Department, Private Bag, Rotorua, New Zealand. If you're interested in saltwater shore fishing, drop a line to Garry Kemsley, Box 180, Taupo, New Zealand. Garry is a famed Taupo trout guide, but he

(Continued on next page.)



A Pacific sail is about to become airborne not far from Club Pacifico.

Reg Turner holds an average Lake Tarawera rainbow. His lodge is in the background.



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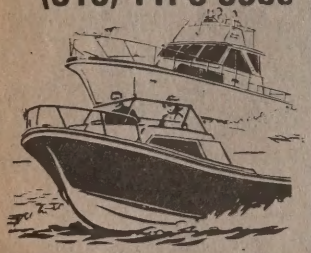

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really loves shore fishing for yellowtail and kahawi—which he takes on both spinning and fly tackle.

Working to this side of the Pacific, we find several excellent choices. Ecuador has fine offshore fishing year-round, but both the weather and fishing is best in mid-winter. The great Salinas striped marlin fishing almost died out in the late 1970s, but it's come back since the Japanese longliners were moved out. Recent reports indicate that the striped marlin sport is about back to normal. That means the sighting of 10 to 20 on an average day, with the likelihood that you'll actually catch two or three. This isn't boring blind trolling, but rather exciting surface fishing that always has you on your toes. These Salinas marlin aren't as big as those in New Zealand, though they do average from 100 to 200 pounds. Striped marlin are great jumpers and perfect fish for 20 and 30 pound class tackle. There are loads of dolphin to be caught, and some Pacific sailfish plus blue and black marlin. On the way in or out, you can troll or cast for roosterfish at Point Elena. For information contact Knud Holst, Pesca Tours, Box 487, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Perhaps the best all-around fishing I've ever experienced is to be found at Club Pacifico de Panama. This resort is located on Coiba Island, southwest of Panama City—and very isolated from civilization. Indeed, the only neighbors on the large island are prisoners from Panama's "Alcatraz." However, you can be sure that you're safer there than you are at home! The fishing is from 23 foot Mako diesels and the full range of Pacific small and big game species is yours for the taking. The inshore action with popping plugs is usually unbelievable. Casting plugs over reefs, I've often had 50 or more fish of several different species come up to fight over the lure. Most are various species of jacks and snappers, with the big cubera snapper being the featured attraction. Roosterfish are available nearer shore, as are most of the jacks and snappers. These fish can also be caught trolling in the same areas—and it's not unusual for a Pacific sailfish, shark or black marlin to jump on the same plug. If you want a real workout, run offshore to Hannibal Bank for black and blue marlin, Pacific sailfish, dolphin, rainbow runners, yellowfin tuna, etc. The usual method is to catch bonito and troll them alive for marlin, but keep a plug ready to throw at schools of surfacing mullet snappers. This area is famous for wahoo, but they're only abundant in the rainy season.

Unfortunately, Club Pacifico isn't inexpensive. A full week's trip (six days fishing) costs $1460 on a double basis, plus another $310 for the stay in Panama City and air transportation to Coiba. The New York to Panama flight is additional, but group rates can often be arranged. The worst part about all this is that it's addicting. People who go once usually become regulars. That means that the prime January to March months are booked solid, though it pays to get on the list for the occasional cancellation. The fishing is just as good in April, when space is available, and the normal calm, sunny weather continues to prevail. For an interesting side trip while in Panama City, try peacock bass fishing in Lake Gatun. These great jumping game fish are superabundant; you'll have lots of fun with light tackle. Everything can be set up by Bob Griffin, Vacation Travel Services, 517 West 49th St., Hialeah, FL 33012 (toll free 800-327-5662). Even more expensive is Tropic Star Lodge, near the Columbian border. This beautiful resort offers all the amenities, plus great black marlin fishing on nearby Pinas Reef from 31 foot Bertrams. For information, contact Tropic Star Lodge, Suite 205, 160 West Colonial Drive, Orlando, FL 32804 (305-843-0123).

Considerably less expensive is the tarpon fishing on Costa Rica's East Coast. The quality of this fishing varies from week to week, but it's a great experience to fish this jungle area in any case. You can use baitcasting or spinning tackle and have great sport with tarpon that average 40 to 80 pounds. If you hit a calm day, you'll probably have incredible action with the tarpon offshore. Back in the rivers and lagoons, the fish are a bit picky. Snook can also be caught by those who work for them—and 20 pounders aren't unusual. Parismina Tarpon Rancho is very comfortable, and the price is right. Contact Jerry Tricomi at The Piers, 1313 Cass La. E., Westmont, IL 60559.

The Bahamas offer good fishing in mid-winter, but the spring is better for almost everything. Best bets for winter fishing are Walker's Cay (700 S.W. 34th St., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33315), Club Cay Club (216 Palermo Ave., Coral Gables, FL 33134), and Deep Water Cay Club (P.O. Box 1145, Palm Beach, FL 33480). Walker's offers fine reef and offshore fishing, and has Makos for rent. Chub is noted for billfishing and has a single bonefish guide. Deep Water is a bonefish and permit resort which attracts such notables as Al McClane. There's some fishing throughout the Caribbean, but it's generally much better in spring and summer. An exception is Little Cayman, which offers fine bonefishing in protected waters, small landlocked tarpon, and good wahoo fishing. Travel agent Les Gay (Sportsmen's Tours, Box 570712, Miami, FL 33157) can make arrangements for Little Cayman and many other destinations. Another fishing travel agent who can arrange your complete trip almost anywhere in the world is Jim Chapralis at PanAngling Ltd., Suite 730, 180 North Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60601. Jim also puts out a fine monthly fishing travel newsletter which is available at $20 per year.

Any of these trips are certain to take some of the bite out of winter.

TRASH FISH TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE TERM "*TRASH FISH*" IS USED IN REFERENCE TO THE NON GAME SPECIES CONSIDERED UNDESIRABLE BY STATUS FISHERMEN. HERE ARE A FEW COMPLIMENTS ON BEHALF OF THESE MALIGNED LESSER LIGHTS AND HOW THEY ARE FISHED AND FOUGHT, IF NOT USUALLY DEEMED EDIBLE.

CARP... A BOTTOM FEEDER AND A STRONG FIGHTER. HAS SMALL MOUTH FOR SUCH BAITS AS WORMS, GRUBS, CORN AND SCENTED DOUGHBALLS, *ALL ON SMALL HOOKS*. AVERAGE 5 LBS...

...RECORD 55 LBS. 5 OZ.

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AVERAGE 5 LBS. RECORD 70 LBS. 5 OZ.

SUCKERS... MAKE ANNUAL UPSTREAM SPAWNING RUNS TO BE CAUGHT BY SPEARING AND SNAGGING. HAVE TURNED DOWN MOUTH OF A BOTTOM FEEDER AND WILL BITE ON *BAITED GARDEN WORMS*. FLESH GOOD BUT BONEY, ROE IS DELICIOUS.

AVERAGE 1-2 LBS. RECORD 9 LBS.

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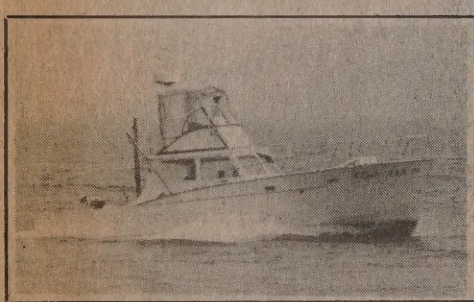

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East End Report

by Stu Miller

MONTAUK

Captain Rich Rade's **Marlin Fleet** with 7 anglers on Friday took 135 cod, the best day in a couple of weeks. The fish averaged 8 to 10 pounds. Also caught were three lunkers of 35, 40 and 54 pounds. Montauk anglerette Donna Nessel bagged a 54 pounder. Seventeen people were at the rail Saturday and the skipper said they had 230 cod plus some blackfish and four to five pound pollack. Roughly twenty pollack in this size class are being taken on each trip. Cod are running from eight to 30 pounds, with, of course, most of the fish being closer to the eight to 10 pound range. The hot area is Cartwright with clam bait.

Codfishing was classified as very good aboard the **Viking Star** by the skipper, Capt. Paul Forsberg who worked the Cartwright grounds with bait. Although an actual body count of the fish was not available, the catches were substantial being mainly seven to 12 pound fish with the pool running 19 pounds. Big blackfish from 5 to 7 pounds were mixed in. With settled weather, Paul feels that codfishing will really be something to write home about. Even so, the catches being made now are nothing to sneeze at.

John and Richie with 10 stripers to 31 lbs. taken on Ava jigs aboard the montauk charter boat "Vivienne."

This 55½ lb. cod was taken on a Captree open boat by Fred Lindeborg of N. Bellmore. It was weighed at Captree Bait Station.

South Shore Report

by Fred Golofaro

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

Captree's open boats continued to do a fair to good job on cod this past weekend with the better action occurring on open bottom.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the **Capt. Joseph II** managed a fair pick of cod while working several wrecks on Saturday. In addition, plenty of good size blackfish remain on these same wrecks to spice the fishing.

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet**, reported that Sunday saw some good action on open bottom for fares aboard the **Speedy VII**. On Saturday, both boats finished with a fair catch of cod, dividing their times between open bottom and several wrecks. Most fish continue to range between six and ten pounds with an occasional shot at some larger fish.

Western South Shore Report

by Stu Miller

WEST END BAYS & INLETS

George Steiniwger hoisted 14 cod Friday aboard the heat boat **Super**

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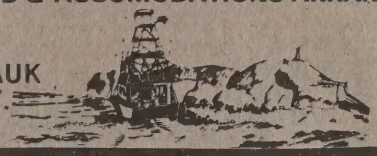

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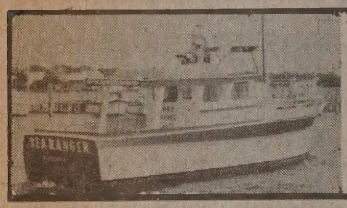

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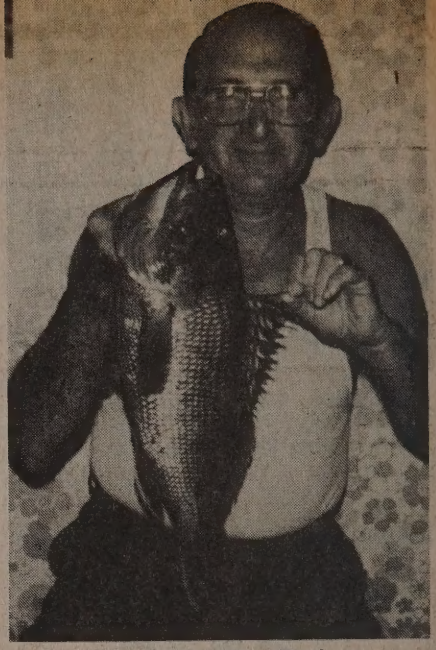

Eugene Basovitch displays a huge four pound sea bass taken on a blackfish trip out of Sheepshead Bay aboard the private boat, Lady Edith.

Spray II and the skipper advises that the codfishing is good on every trip out, weather permitting.

Aboard the **Starstream II** with Captain Chris Specht doing the honors, very decent catches of cod were made on all trips this week. Monday's catch was 50 cod, Tuesday's was 30, 59 fish on Friday and 60 on Saturday. Fish were mainly schoolies with pool winners in the 20s. This has been a combination of wreck and open bottom fishing on bait.

Aboard the **Capt. Al** Friday saw a high hook of nine cod for Brooklyn angler Bill Scott which included the 25 lb. pool winner. Total catch for eight men that day was 35 cod. With a good crowd aboard Saturday a good moving current was hard to come by, but nonetheless, high hook was 5 cod with a lot of fares getting two and three fish and a 20 pounder taking the pool. On Sunday's trip, high hook was seven cod with a few passengers getting five fish and a lot of catches of two and three fish a man, with only 15 of the 30 passengers actually fishing. Fish averaged 8-12 pounds and the pool fish was in the 20s. The skipper is looking forward to some settled weather which should give greatly increased catches.

GETTING STARTED IN THE SURF

(Continued from page 17.)

using vinyl tape so that the light can be hung around the neck. It should be pointed out here that good fishing is often found after dark.

It is also a good idea at this time to give some thought to the areas one will probably fish this coming season. Inquire about what, if any, permits are required to gain access when the beaches are normally closed to the public. Most governmental agencies make exceptions for qualified fishermen, but special permits are necessary and there is no better time to do the needed leg-work than before the season begins.

A person starting out on his own into the realm of surf fishing needs all the assistance possible. Read whatever publications available and although I might be biased there is none more helpful than The Long Island Fisherman, for it thoroughly covers local fishing techniques and conditions. Learn from others you encounter on the beach, watch and copy their methods. Ask questions without being too pushy, for hard-working surfmen are hesitant to give up information so difficult to acquire. Many of them, once they see that you are willing to spend the time in pursuit of the sport, will be inclined to lend a helping hand. Joining a surf club is another way to make contact with knowledgeable anglers, but again, one should be willing to pay his dues. Patience and persistence are necessary ingredients for all who wish to succeed and when that goal is achieved, there is no more thrilling way to catch a trophy fish than when wading into surging surf.

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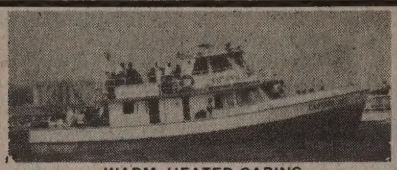

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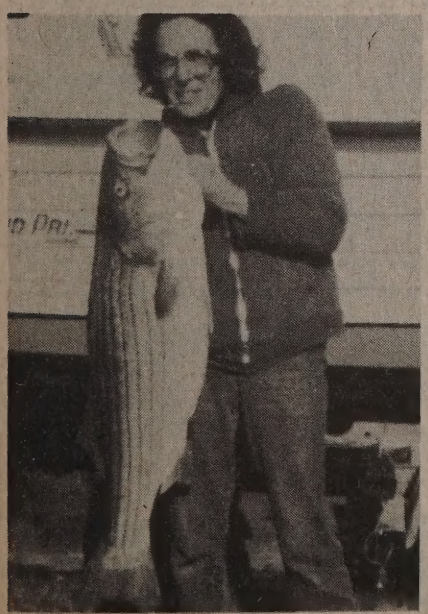

Bea Keller of Massapequa followed up a 27 lb. striper with this 29 lber. Both were caught while trolling in Jones Inlet this past fall. Subscriber photo.

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EDITORIAL: The Fisherman Comments at Public Hearing

(Continued from page 5.)

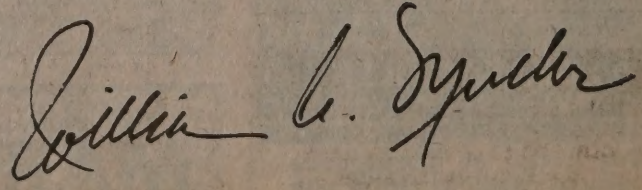
prohibit the taking of fish for commercial purposes within 1,000 feet of state parks. There are additional provisions and exclusions which are not truly germain to my comments. The need for this legislation grows out of a growing post-war population on Long Island and the concurrent competition for everything from space to fishery resources, a rapid and uncontrolled growth in the number of Long Island commercial fishermen in response to the perceived future benefits of the 200 mile limit law, and the dwindling access for beach fishermen created by the aforementioned growth in population. In recent years social conflict between users of the state parks and commercial fishermen has been on the increase. In addition, there has been an explosion of commercial fishing effort at some state parks that, in some cases, has prevented the use of those parks for short periods by citizen constituents for the purposes to which the parks were intended. As the name implies, Long Island State Parks and **Recreation** Commission, the intended purpose of the state parks is for **recreation**. Clearly, it is the responsibility of state government to prohibit commercial exploitation in any form where such commercialism does not serve the recreaitonal user or interferes with recreational activity.

We must be realistic. We must understand that this legislation will influence only a very small portion of the opportunities for fishing along the south shore of Long Island. The influence will be so small as to be insignificant. The Island stretches 125 miles from end to end, and the eligible park front amounts to far less than 10 percent of the total. It is obvious to us that parks should be recreational sanctuaries where navigation, swimming, fishing, sunning, picnicking, and beach strolling can be enjoyed without intimidation from commercial interests. Our parks should be among the highlights of what Long Island has to offer as a tourist attraction rather than sores on the minds of tourists who tell friends and relatives that on Long Island we care little about the right of a tourist to enjoy our beaches and parks unencumbered by commercial activities.

Let me point out that the recreational fishing industry in the New York Metropolitan Area is valued at about $125 million per year (Sea Grant Vol. 13, No. 1, 1982) and that our Long Island tourist industry has a similar enormous economic value to the people of our townships. We need to contrast this against an economic commercial finfish value of slightly more than $10 million per year and that there are only about 17,000 commercial fin fishermen compared to 2.3 million recreational fishermen and the millions who directly and indirectly benefit from our tourist industry.

The bill, through its careful wording and grandfather provisions, will have only a minor impact on our commercial fishermen, and if they were to apply their efforts elsewhere, the law need not imply any economic hardship. One needs only to remember the fish trap incident of several years ago at North Bar, Montauk, see the congeries of nets along the south side of Montauk Point, or witness the cat-and-mouse deception of gill netters in Fire Island Inlet and off Robert Moses State Park to appreciate the need for this legislation. The alternative to this modest legislation will be the destruction of property associated with growing competitive frustration, the strong possibility of loss of life, the rejection of a major element in our tourist industry, and a denial by the legislature that the state parks were designed for and are intended for recreational use by our citizens. This legislation should not be viewed as an anti-commercial fishing bill as it was depicted last year in some forums. Rather, it should be accepted as a pro-state parks bill. Our intention is not to harm or destroy commercial fishing, rather to protect the access of recreational surf fishermen and other park users from an explosive growth in commercial activity in the waters of the state parks.

Thank you, Senator, for the opportunity to deliver these remarks today and we wish to assure you of our continued support and enthusiasm for both your effort and the sincerity you have repeatedly expressed for passing needed and meaningful marine legislation.



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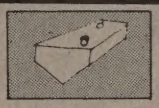

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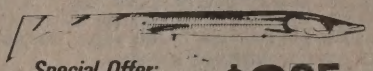

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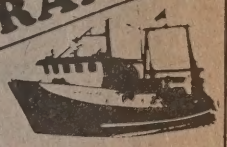

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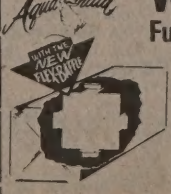

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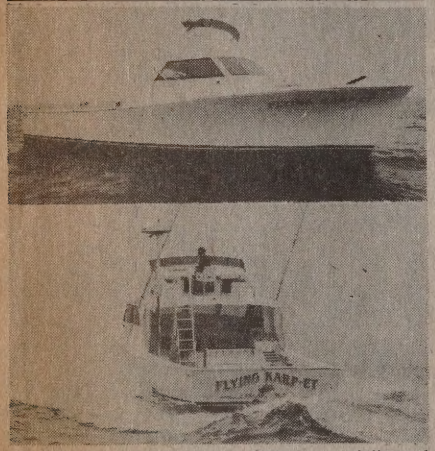

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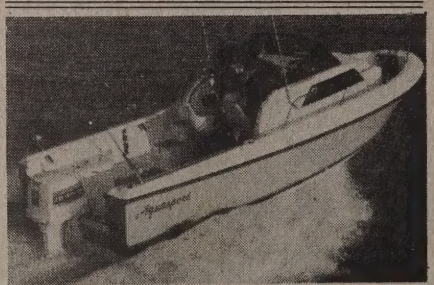

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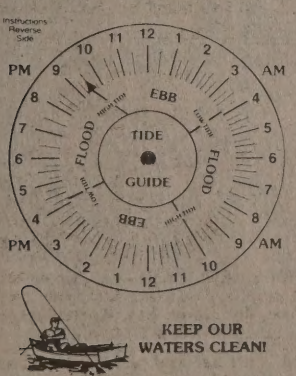

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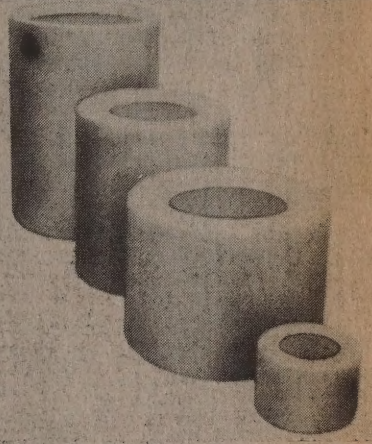

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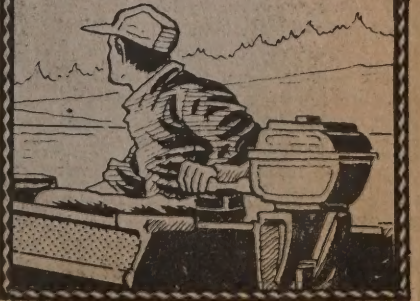

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